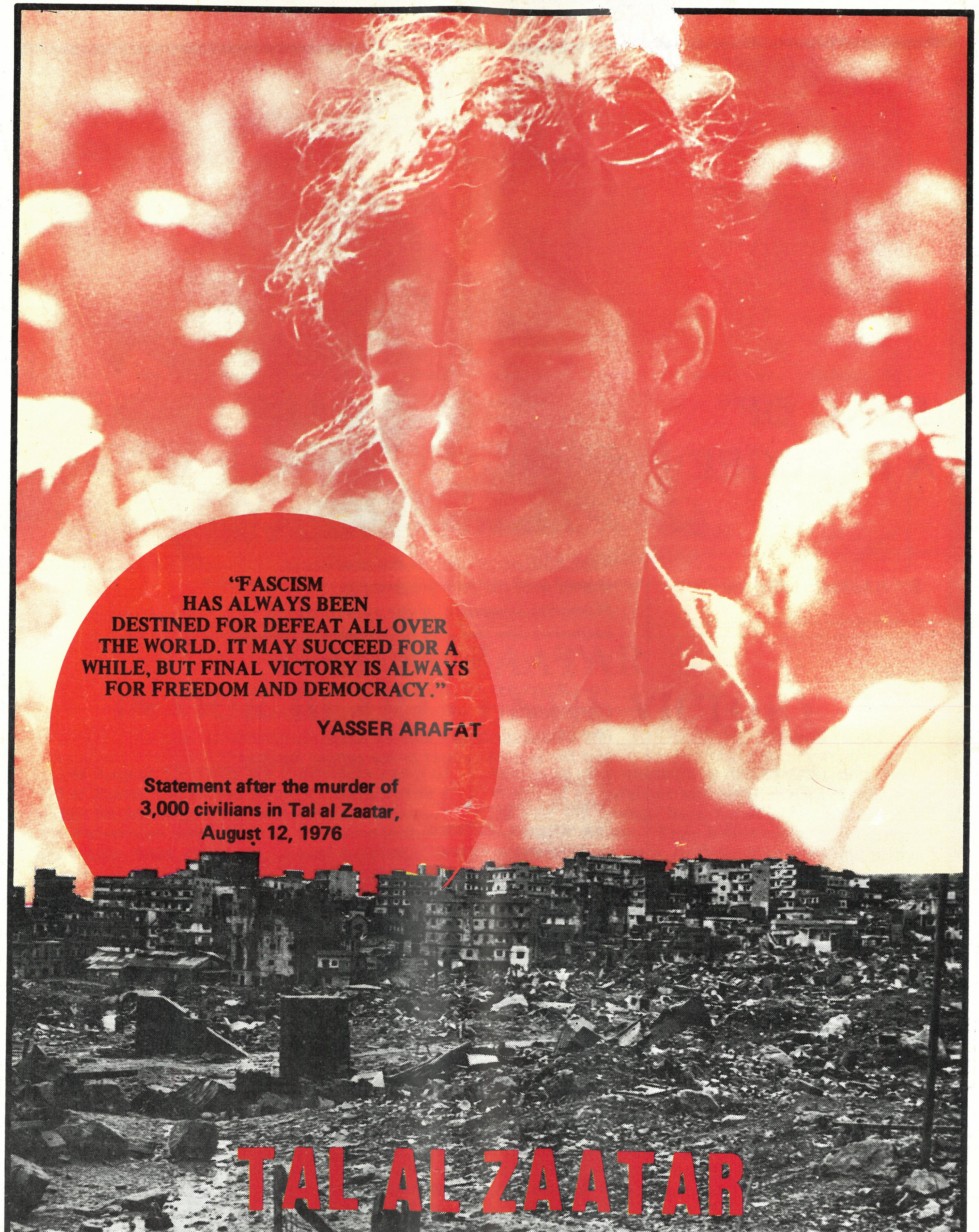

"FASCISM
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
DESTINED FOR DEFEAT ALL OVER
THE WORLD. IT MAY SUCCEED FOR A
WHILE, BUT FINAL VICTORY IS ALWAYS
FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY."

YASSER ARAFAT

Statement after the murder of
3,000 civilians in Tal al Zaatar,
August 12, 1976

TAL AL ZAATAR

Palestine

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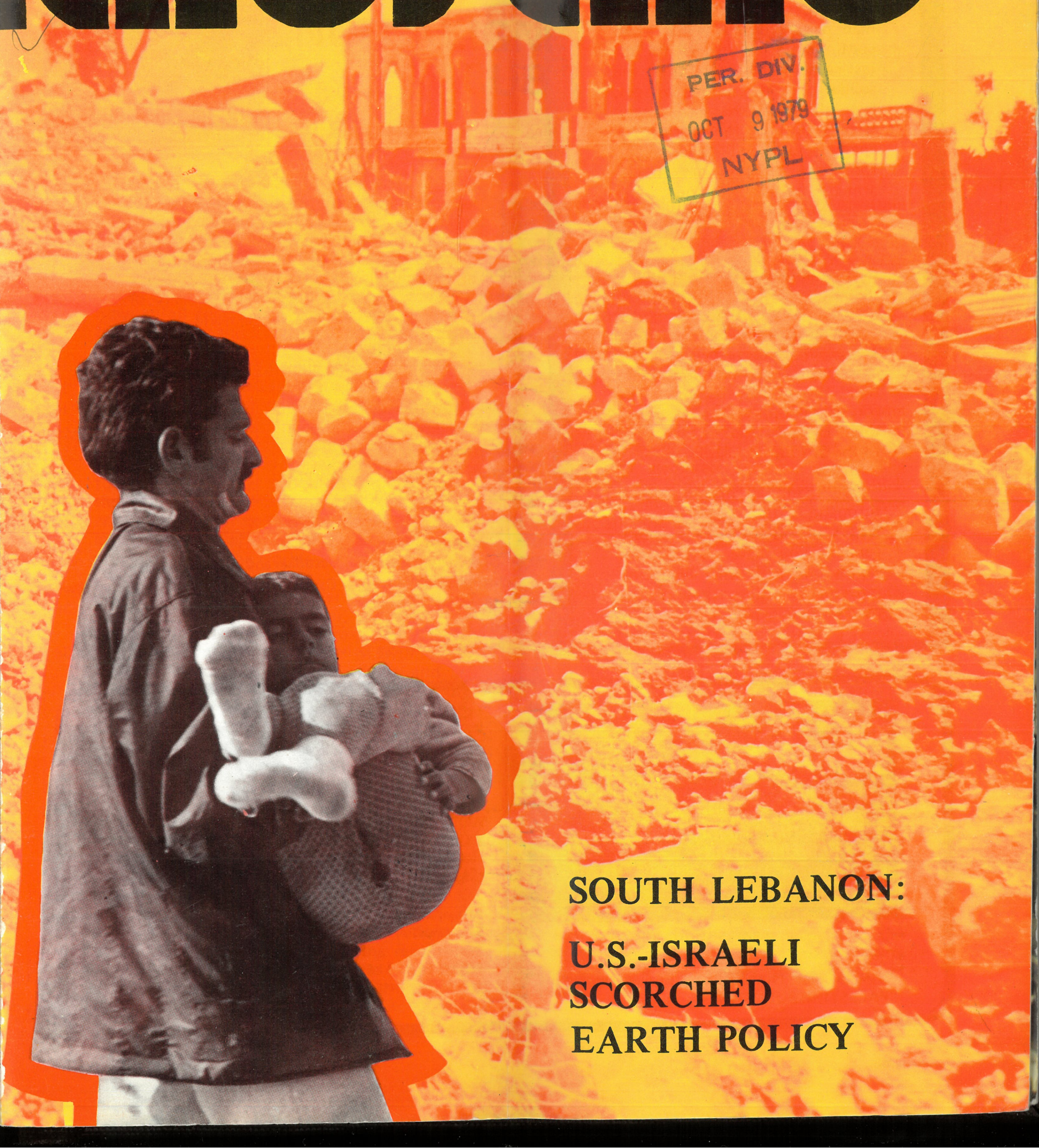

SOUTH LEBANON:

U.S.-ISRAELI SCORCHED EARTH POLICY

TO OUR READERS

Solidarity is an important weapon for helping the peoples of the world overcome oppression and injustice. The support and solidarity which the Palestinian people receive helps us to continue our just struggle for our just cause. We are grateful for the solidarity and support we get, but although we have many friends around the world, our enemies are still strong and formidable. They are better armed, better equipped, and much wealthier than we.

Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We thank all of our friends throughout the world for the letters of support and encouragement you have sent to us. Surely, we and other liberation movements will continue on the road to victory.

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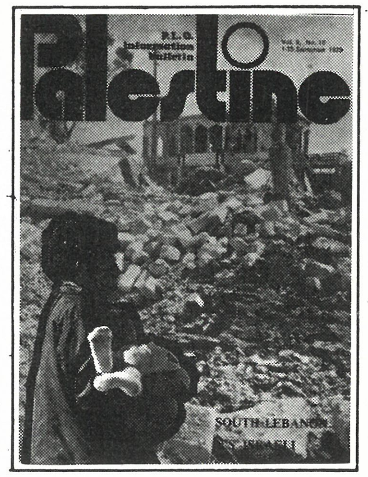

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Palestine

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THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN CUBA

Not far away from the doors of the biggest imperialist country, the U.S.A., the Non-aligned Summit convened in Havana, the Cuban capital. The Non-Aligned Summit in Cuba can be considered as a great success for the anti-imperialist live of the Non-aligned movement. It was also a blow to all forces who had hoped and worked for a split in the Movement only because the Summit was held in Cuba under the auspices of the distinguished Cuban Leader Fidel Castro.

The Non-aligned Summit which took place from 3-8 September, encompassed the majority of the developing nations who are emerging as a new political force on the world arena. Ninety-four member states and organizations such as the PLO and SWAPO reiterated their positions on imperialism, colonialism and pledged to intensify their efforts for peace, justice and progress all over the world.

Although it has lost its historical figures such as Nehru, Sukarno and Nasser, the Non-aligned Movement still enjoys great respect within the third world nations. At the age of 87, President Tito of Yugoslavia was, the oldest and sole historical figure, still committed to the principles of the Movement. There is no doubt that new political figures emerged at this Summit to replace the historical figures, such as Castro, Arafat, Samora Machel, Kenneth Kaunda and others.

Inspite of the different social and economic systems of the member states, they expressed similar views on different international issues such as the Kampuchean problem, the Middle East conflict and the Western Sahara. In the final session of the conference some of the member states expressed their reservations on those heated issues, but finally the resolutions were passed by the majority. There is no doubt that it is due to the wise chairmanship of Fidel Castro that the conference was able to maintain its democratic nature. The conference agreed to keep the seat of Kampuchea vacant because of the dispute between the old regime of Pol Pot and the news pro-Vietnam regime and accepted to form an ad hoc commission to pollow up developments on this matter. The Sahrawi problem resulted an a condemnation of Morocco, but only because it occupied the region evacuated by Mauritania.

The most debated issues were the Camp David agreement and the suspension of Egyptian membership, which were transmitted to the conference in an Arab working paper. The objection to the final draft resolution which asked for the condemnation of the Camp David agreement and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, came mostly from some pro-Western African delegates.

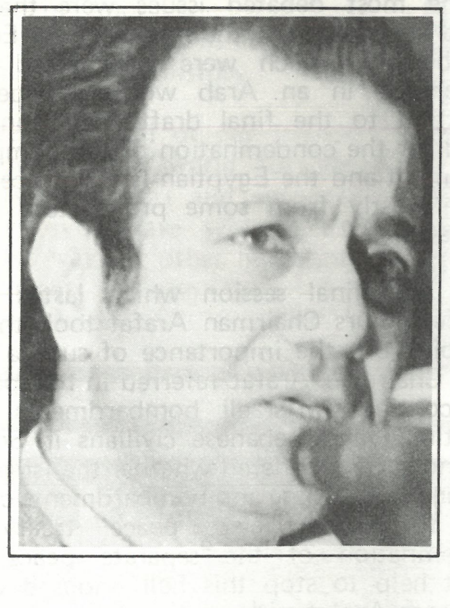
In the final session which lasted almost thirteen hours Chairman Arafat took the floor to point out the importance of such a resolution. Chairman Arafat referred in his speech to the continuous Israeli bombardments against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Southern Lebanon. He wondered whether the Israeli land, sea, and air shelling and bombardments coincide with the Camp David "peace" treaty. "The condemnation of the separate peace treaty might help to stop this hell imposed on us", Chairman Arafat said.

It is noteworthy to mention that all the speakers at the Sixth Summit considered the Palestinian problem as a central world issue. All the speakers unanimously asked for en equitable settlement of the Palestinian problem. Anti-Zionism was one of the main slogans at the conference and among the neon signs of Havana during the night you always read. "Contra el Sionismo."

PALESTINE NOTES

FAROUK KADDOUMI SIGNS TURKISH-PALESTINIAN PROTOCOL TO OPEN PLO OFFICE

Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, Gunduz Okun, signed a diplomatic protocol on August 15 which officialises the opening of a PLO office in Ankara, and improves bilateral relations and cooperation between Turkey and the PLO. Farouk Kaddoumi made a statement on August 14 confirming that the Palestinian people will regain their national rights in the near future. He added that the USA has to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Farouk Kaddoumi pointed out the role Turkey is expected to play in the Middle East problem, and expressed hope for the improvement of bilateral relations and cooperation between the PLO and Turkey. He also pointed out the necessity of improving Turkish-Arab relations.



Farouk Kaddoumi

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Okun confirmed that the Palestine problem is the core of the Middle East struggle, and it is impossible to solve this problem without Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the basic legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right of return and the establishment of an independent national state. Okun stressed the importance of Farouk Kaddoumi's visit, and said that it is a new beginning of good relations between the PLO and Turkey.

ABU SALEH MEETS POLISH YOUTH DELEGATION

Polish Youth delegation

Abu Saleh, Member of the Fateh Central Committee and member of the General Command of the Assifa forces, on August 20 met with the Polish Youth delegation which was invited by the Higher Council for Palestinian Youth and Sports at the al-Toufoula School in Souk al-Gharb. Abu Saleh briefed the visiting delegation on the latest developments of the Palestine cause on the local, Arab and international levels. The Polish Youth delegation arrived in Beirut to visit the various institutions of the Palestinian Revolution and to participate in the International Student Work Camp sponsored by the General Union of Arab Students. The Polish delegation was also met by the PLO representative in Poland, Fouad Yasin. The delegation visited a number of the Palestinian Revolution's institutions, and the positions of Palestinian fighters in South Lebanon.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF PALESTINIAN-SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEES

A delegation of the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity visited the Soviet Union from August 13-20 in response to an invitation from the Soviet Committee for the Defence of Peace. The delegation was headed by Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, PLO Official Spokesman. The delegation participated in the conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, and met the Committee for the Defence of Peace in the Republic. The two parties issued a joint communique which stressed the following points, among others:

— Both sides expressed their approval of present Soviet-Palestinian relations, and recommended their strengthening.

— The two sides condemned imperialist policy in the Middle East, as expressed in the Camp David agreements, and particularly in the self-rule conspiracy. They considered such agreements a new conspiracy against the Palestinian people and the Arab liberation movement.

— The two sides condemned the organised Israeli aggressions and war of annihilation against the Palestinian people, both of which constitute a real threat to international peace and security, and condemned Israel's racist policy in the occupied territories, particularly land confiscation and annexation, establishment of Israeli settlements on Arab land, racial discrimination and oppression.

— The Soviet Committee for the Defence of Peace confirmed its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

— The Palestinian side highly appreciated the support and aid of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Bloc.

— The two sides confirmed the impossibility of establishing a just peace in the Middle East without a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the guarantee of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of establishing an independent state according to U.N. General Assembly resolutions 3236 and 3237.

— Concerning the situation in South Africa, the two sides confirmed their support for the just struggle of the African national liberation movements against imperialism in Zimbabwe, Namibia and the South African Republic. The two sides also confirmed their support for the anti-imperialist tendencies of the Iranian Revolution, and the Republics of Afghanistan and Nicaragua in their struggle against the imperialist-reactionary conspiracies which aim at obstructing the revolutionary marches.

— The two sides then confirmed their support for the cause of peace in South-East Asia. They also expressed respect for the national and regional sovereignty of the area.

— Support was also confirmed for the Vietnamese people, whose victory against imperialism and its roots will remain a source of inspiration for people struggling for freedom, unity, national independence and social progress.

PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN MEETING: SUPPORT PALESTINIAN STEADFASTNESS

On August 21, the following Palestinian-Jordanian joint communique was issued in Amman and Beirut following a meeting between King Hussein of Jordan and PLO Chairman Arafat:

"Upon the invitation of King Hussein of the Hashemite Republic of Jordan, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, visited Jordan on August 21, 1979. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides carried out extensive discussions, which included the latest developments on the Arab and international levels, the escalation of the Israeli aggressions on South Lebanon, the development of the means to support the Palestinian people's struggle inside the occupied territories, and the bilateral relations which are of common interest.
"Both parties confirmed in their talks, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the agreements reached in their last meeting in al-Mafraq on May 17, 1979.

"Both parties agreed to practical steps to fortify coordination between them on all levels and in all issues, primarily the support of the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the face of the Camp David agreements, their follow-ups and consequences. Both parties also confirmed their intention to continue the struggle against the occupation and Israeli racist practices in the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, particularly concerning the policies of annexation, desecration of holy places in Jerusalem, Hebron and elsewhere, establishment of settlements, repression of liberties and expulsion and deportation of Palestinian citizens from their homeland in defiance of the principles, Charters and resolutions of the U.N., as well as the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Declaration of Human Rights.

"The two parties also expressed their intention to confront all Israeli attempts to destroy the unity of the Arab cause, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as confirmed by international legitimacy, and the attempts to split the unity of the Palestinian people and its representation by its sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The Palestinian and Jordanian sides finally confirmed their intention to support the march of Arab solidarity, as embodied in the Ninth Arab Summit Conference held in Baghdad and its resolutions, as well as the joint activities for safeguarding and implementation of these resolutions. The Palestinian side expressed its appreciation to King Hussein for his invitation, and for his special concern for the development of coordination between the two parties."

PALESTINE NOTES

President Ceancescu meeting with Chairman Arafat

PALESTINIAN-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LAND

At the conclusion of the talks between Romanian President Nicolae Ceaucescu and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, on August 25-26, a joint communique was issued including the following main points:

"At the invitaiton of the Secretary General of the Romanian Communist Party, Comrade Nicolae Ceaucescu, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, carried out an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania on August 25 and 26, during which several discussions were held between the two leaders and their respective delegations.

"Both sides stated that the Middle East situation is a dangerous one which requires continuous and intensified activity for the achievement of a just solution to the Palestine question and a just peace, which will not be achieved without the participation of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They also confirmed that a complete and immediate Israeli withdrawal from the 1967 occupied territories and the achievement of Palestinian national rights are imperative for peace.

"President Ceausescu also confirmed the importance of Arab solidarity for the liberation of the land; and both leaders confirmed that the U.N. could and should have a more active part in the achievement of peace. This, they stressed, can be achieved through the adoption by the Security Council of new resolutions which confirm the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, as they are set forth in the resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly.

"Both parties also condemned the Israeli aggressions on Lebanon, its intervention in its internal affairs, its continued attempts to divide Lebanon and increase tension, as well as the annihilation of the Palestinian people living in Lebanon. They confirmed the need to set a limit to these Israeli practices, as well as the policies adopted in the occupied Arab territories, mainly the establishment of settlements, violation of historical and cultural heritage, acts of racism and persecution applied against the Arabs, and their expulsion from their lands with the aim of changing the land's demographic character and consecrating the Israeli occupation.

"President Ceausescu further confirmed his people's support for the just cause of the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership, and Rumania's willingness in the future to make all efforts to contribute to the achievement of a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the region."

PLO AT UN CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Walid Qamhawi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO delegation to the U.N Conference for Education and Technology in the service of development, currently meeting in the Austrian capital, Vienna, in a speech delivered to the Conference on August 27, confirmed that repeated Israeli aggressions have hindered the natural development of a Palestinian society. The Israeli war machine which is opposed to education and technology, posed and still poses a dengerous challenge to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people, he went on, have responded positively and in a constructive manner to this challenge by acquiring education and technology as a means of survival and for the development of Palestinian society.

VENEZUELA TO RECOGNISE THE PLO

The Secretary of the Committee for the Defence of the Arab Cause in Venezuela confirmed, in a statement issued August 29, that his government is about to recognise the PLO. The recognition is to be officially announced next week; and a Palestinian delegation will leave for Caracas to inaugurate the opening of the PLO office. He added that this resolution was delayed because of Israeli pressures on the Venezuelan government. He declared that he expects the Zionist to carry out a large-scale campaign against such a resolution. He finally confirmed that the Venezuelan government will not alter its decision to recognise the PLO.

ARAFAT PARTICIPATES IN LIBYAN REVOLUTION'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, participated at the head of a Palestinian delegation in the ceremonies of the tenth anniversary of the Libyan Revolution, which were held in Tripoli on September 1. Other Arab Heads of State also joined in the ceremonies, while Chiefs of Staff of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front held a series of meeting with the aim of consolidating the Front and strengthening its position against the Camp David alliance.

PLO PROTEST TO U.S EMBASSY OVER DETENTION OF PALESTINIAN CITIZEN

The PLO Political Department has sent a memorandum of complaint to the US Embassy in Beirut on August 28, demanding the release of the Palestinian citizen Ziad Mohamed Abu al-Ain, who was arrested by the American authorities at the request of the Israeli authorities, who accuse him of executing a number of commando operations.

The memorandum stated: "The Political Department of the PLO would like to present the PLO's request for the release of the Palestinian citizen Ziad Mohamed Ahmad Abu al-Ain, who is a resident of the West Bank, and who carries a Jordanian passport.

"The American police, with the help of Israeli intelligence, arrested the Palestinian citizen Abu al-Ain, and brought him to trial. This act constitutes a violation of the simplest of human rights, as well as of international laws. The Palestinian citizen Abu al-Ain has not violated any American law; thus there is nothing to justify his arrest and trial. Moreover he is not an Israeli citizen, but a Palestinian one, living in the West Bank and has Jordanian citizenship.

"Thus he is not covered by the American-Israeli criminal extradition agreement. The Political Department of the PLO brings to the attention of the U.S. Government the fact that this act constitutes a dangerous precedent against Palestinian citizens who live under Israeli occupation. Based on the above, the PLO demands the release of Ziad Mohd Ahmad Abu-al Ain."

PALESTINIAN ART EXHIBIT FOR TAL AL ZAATAR

As part of a week of commemorative activities for the struggle of Tal al Zaatar, seventeen artists from the General Union of Palestinian Artists exhibited their work at Beirut University College. The exhibit, which opened August 13, showed the expressive and technical richness of current Palestinian art. The theme of Tal al Zaatar dominated the exhibit, expressed in a multiplicity of forms by individual artists, from Naji El Ali's poignant pen sketches, which originally appeared as cartoons in the Lebanese newspaper "As-Safir" to Ismail Shammout's vivid oil paintings, part of a series on Tal al Zaatar, to Nasser Soumi's sensitive engravings, entitled "Witness in Time of Tal al Zaatar."

Two largescale drawings by Burhan Karkutli "Zionist Attack" and "Attack on Quarantina" expressed the terror of Zionist and fascist aggression in stark and strong lines. A recent painting by Mohammed El Sahr effectively contrasted his medium of delicate pastel with his subject: the steadfastness of the people of South Lebanon, as epitomized by a woman holding a child and confronting bestial, surrealistic aggressors. Resistance to oppression was also a theme for many artists — from the calligraphy of Mustafa El Hallaj to the glowing portrait of Bishop Helarion Capucci, by Abdul Rahman al Muzain.

Other artists in the exhibit were Entidel El Sharif, Adnan El Sharif, Mohammed El Muzain, Mona Saudi, Michel Najar, Taman al Akhal, Kamil Howa, Toufiq Abdul Ali, Joseph Armen and Jumainia Hussaini, all of whose works asserted the vitality of Palestinian art and culture.

JERUSALEM DAY: CELEBRATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD

August 17, the last Friday in the holy fasting month of Ramadan, was declared by Ayatullah Ruhollah Khomeini as "Jerusalem Day" and consecrated to public prayer for the Palestine cause. At Tehran University, the central area was decked with giant posters of Ayatullah Khomeini and Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and was thronged with thousands of Iranians.

The focal point of the religious rally was the university sports stadium, where the prominent Islamic figure Ayatullah Mahmoud Taleghani led public prayers for Palestine, in the presence of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and his cabinet, the ambassadors of the Moslem nations, and visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Abdelhalim Khaddam. "Zionism is not only threatening Islam and Christianity but also threatening Judaism", the ayatullah said, adding that Jews must rise against Zionism and carry out their duty, which was the role of Abraham, who fought for the welfare of humanity.

Addressing the rally in Arabic, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam said: "The Iranian revolution is a great phenomenon which will greatly help the Palestine cause. The victory of the Iranian revolution has a great role to play in harmonizing forces in the Middle East. We will fight against Israel with all our might and will resist until the end to get back the occupied lands and usurped rights." Khaddam also condemned the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the "treacherous plots" of Anwar Sadat.

Ayatullah Khomeini issued a communique to the Islamic World on the occasion of Jerusalem Day. He described this day as being not only the day of Jerusalem, but also the day of the revolution of all people under U.S. domination, and as an event in which all honest people should participate. Khomeini said that Jerusalem Day is a warning to all the big powers to cease enslaving weaker ones, and also a warning to Israel to stop its interference in the Islamic World.

PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE RALLY ON JERUSALEM DAY

The Palestinian Revolution, and the Lebanese National Movement on August 17, 1979 celebrated Jerusalem Day at the Arab University of Beirut, under the sponsorship of Yasser Arafat. Several speeches were delivered on this occasion. The speech of the Lebanese National Movement was delivered by Walid Junblatt, the Chairman of the Socialist Progressive Party. Junblatt was followed by the Imam of South Lebanon, Sheikh Muhammed Ali al-Amin; the Archbishop of the Syriac sect; the representative of the Mufti of the Lebanese Republic; Sheikh Muhammed al-Jozo; Kamal Shatila, the Secretary General of the Front of Nationalist Parties and Forces; Dr George Habash, the Secretary General of the PFLP; and the Charge d'Affaires of the Iranian Embassy to Lebanon. In his speech, George Habash said that in spite of the critical situation through which the Palestinian Revolution is passing, and of the war of annihilation launched against the Palestinian people, it also possesses enough weapons to be able to hold steadfast in this period, and then to continue its march towards the achievement of its aims.

Hundreds of thousands attend anti-imperialist Jerusalem Day rally in Teheran

Chairman Arafat and Walid Junblatt at Jerusalem Day rally in Beirut

Finally, Chairman Arafat addressed the gathering. He denounced U.S. and Sadat's claims to "represent" the Palestinian people. He underlined the importance of the resolutions reached at the Baghdad Conference of Arab Foreign and Finance Ministers last November and hailed Iran's stance which also broke off relations with Egypt despite earlier loans to Egypt given by the Shah. Turning to South Lebanon, Chairman Arafat declared:

"Now the Israelis are preparing for a new battle which is known as 'Litani II.' To this we reply that we are ready to fight and we are not afraid either of Israel, or of the U.S. navy which is being stationed off the coasts of the Arab Nation. If some people are terrified, we, the Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the National Front, are not afraid and are ready to fight. If the U.S. 7th, 6th and 5th fleets threaten us with destruction, in the name of all our fighters and revolutionary brethren, I say that we are ready to bring the temple down on our heads. We do not accept threats from anybody because we know how to defend our land, and the fact that the Israelis have recruited 111,000 policemen for the sole reason of combating the movements of our heroic masses inside the occupied territories, clearly exemplifies what I mean.

"The unlimited revolutionary contributions of our masses inside the occupied territories and the heroic steadfastness of our Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in South Lebanon enable me to challenge all the imperialist agents led by the head of imperialism, Jimmy Carter, to try and stop our victorious march. Dayan yesterday revealed that the Israeli attacks against South Lebanon were blessed by the U.S. administration. This does not terrify us: Let them understand that if the B 52's did not frighten the Vietnamese revolutionaries, then the F-15's, F-16's and even F-18's won't frighten our revolutionaries.

"The Egyptian Prime Minister, the insignificant Mustafa Khalil, in all insolence proposed a halt to our operations inside Palestine in return for a halt to Israeli operations against us. The best reply I ever heard to such a proposition came from our Lebanese allies in a meeting of the Joint Command. They affirmed that such a decision was not to be made by the Palestinian Revolution or by the PLO, but only by the Pan-Arab Nationalist Movement. They heroically declared: 'Fight and carry on your operations, and we will stand together until victory.' "

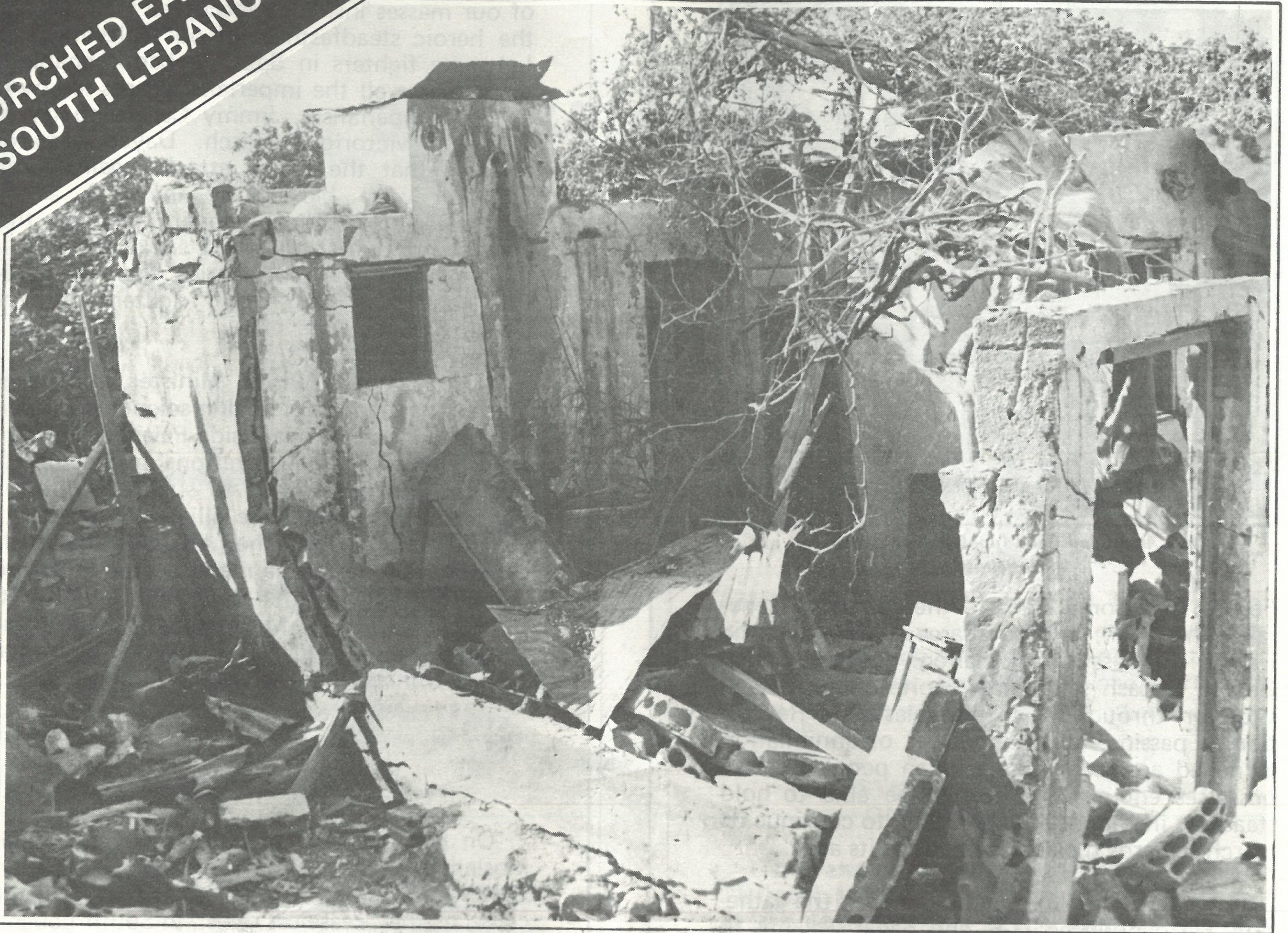
PHILLIPINES

On Jerusalem Day, 2,000 Iranian and Filipino Moslems in Manila condemned U.S. President Carter and Israeli Premier Menahem Begin because of the "ceaseless raids" in South Lebanon. In a five point resolution issued after a meeting and demonstration, the protestors strongly condemned Jerusalem's occupation, the Palestinians' expulsion from their motherland and Israeli raids in Lebanon. They stressed that "the only solution" to the Palestinian problem and the Middle East conflict was Israel's evacuation of Arab territories.

MALAYSIA

In a message to mark Jerusalem Day, Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen called on Malaysians to join their Moslem brethern around the world to liberate Jerusalem and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. He noted that "Israel has chosen to ignore even UN resolutions calling on it to rescind any arrangements which would effect a change in the status of the Holy City."

SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON:



Destroyed huts at Ain Hilweh refugee camp, August 28, 1979

ISRAELI AGGRESSION –

“WAR WITHOUT RULES”

As Lebanon prepared for the most festive occasion of the Islamic year, the Al-Fitr feast of August 23-26, Israel struck at South Lebanon in a series of heavy artillery attacks that were the most severe of the summer. The port city of Tyre, whose normal population is 60,000 was left virtually deserted, its Christian Quarter in ruins. Using U.S.-supplied 155 and 175 mm artillery, Israeli guns shelled as far north as Sidon and its environs. The death toll for August 24 alone was estimated by the Associated Press at 20. Many villages and camps mourned their dead and tended the wounded, rather than engaging in the customary celebrations. One young student, Hussein Alaikh from the village of Yahmour, told a reporter that 11 people had died in his village during several days of fierce shelling. “It’s supposed to be a holiday,” he said, “but we can’t celebrate it now.”

The Israeli-created inferno in South Lebanon in late August has led to a new round of Israeli explanations, Western “concern” and sharpened criticism of Israel, and even brought the issue of South Lebanon once again to the United Nations Security Council. It remains to be seen, however, whether the international community will be willing or able to presure Israel to halt its aggression. What has emerged most clearly, in fact, is Israeli determination, not only to continue its present policy, but to intensify its strikes against the population of South Lebanon.

WAR WITHOUT RULES

Voicing once again the policy Israel has pursued in South Lebanon since the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Israeli Chief of Staff Raphael Eytan said in an interview with the Israeli daily “Yediot Aharonot” on August 28 that “in a war like this, for which there are no rules, there is sometimes no way of ensuring that civilians will not be harmed.” Eytan, one of the military authors of this current strategy of “hitting the terrorists wherever they are found,” is notorious even in Israeli circles for his disregard for Arab lives, recently intervening to shorten the prison sentences of two Israeli soldiers who murdered unarmed Arab civilians.

The intensity of the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon suggests that Israel is reaffirming this policy in the face of mounting world-wide criticism of its attacks on civilians and moreover, is using its aggression to influence international policy towards the Palestinian question and the Middle East conflict. The murderous dawn artillery barrage directed against Tyre on August 24 came as the UN Security Council discussed the issue of Palestinian rights and can be seen as the Israeli “veto” of these rights. In addition, Israel was pointedly reminding the U.S. that Israel is capable of exploding the situation in the Middle East if the direction of U.S. and international policy is not to its liking.

The week before, the U.S. had refuted Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan’s assertion that the U.S. supported Israeli policy in South Lebanon, with the exception of its attacks on civilians. U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Reston said on August 16 that “We oppose the policy of pre-emptive bombing strikes *per se.*” As if to test these words, Israel launched a bombing strike on August 20, using U.S. Phantoms, against the village of Ras al Ain and an area near the Litani River. The U.S. response was disingenuous: it “did not know” if the planes were really American-made. (See accompanying box on U.S. weapons)

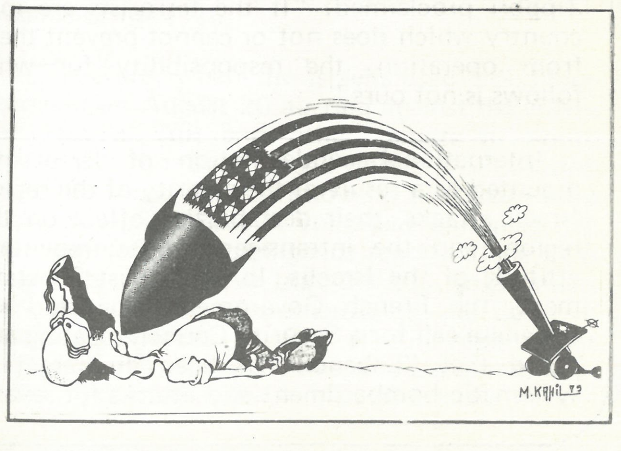
▶

Israel’s Chief of Staff Eytan (right) and naval chief Almog point

out the targets for aggression in Lebanon

DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR PEACE CALLS FOR HALT TO ISRAELI ATTACKS ON SOUTH LEBANON

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, a progressive Jewish-Palestinian body in 1948-occupied Palestine, issued a communique on August 31, 1979 in which it called for an immediate halt to the war of annihilation launched against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in South Lebanon. The communique called on all the national, progressive and democratic forces in the world to apply pressure on Israel to stop the attacks on Palestinian and Lebanese women and children in the South. The communique confirmed that these Israeli attacks will never be able to repress the Palestinian people, and their will to struggle for the national rights, under PLO leadership, but would rather lead to a new war, which would be disastrous for the whole area. The communique added that the Israeli non-recognition of Palestinian national rights has been unanimously condemned at the U.N. Security Council meeting, while the PLO was recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Front finally confirmed in its communique that the Middle East conflict can only be solved by reaching a just solution to the Palestine cause and the recognition of the Palestinian people’s right to establish an independent state.



SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON:

Israel emerged as the winner of this faint "duel" with the U.S., and Western diplomats in Beirut, as reported in the Lebanese daily "Ike" on August 24, said that Israel had moved back its U.S.-made artillery to positions in South Lebanon, a fact confirmed by Defense Minister Weizman in a speech before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on August 28. Committee Chairman Moshe Arens added his praise for the tactics employed by the Israeli military, noting that the fight in Lebanon "does not lend itself to routine solutions."

PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS

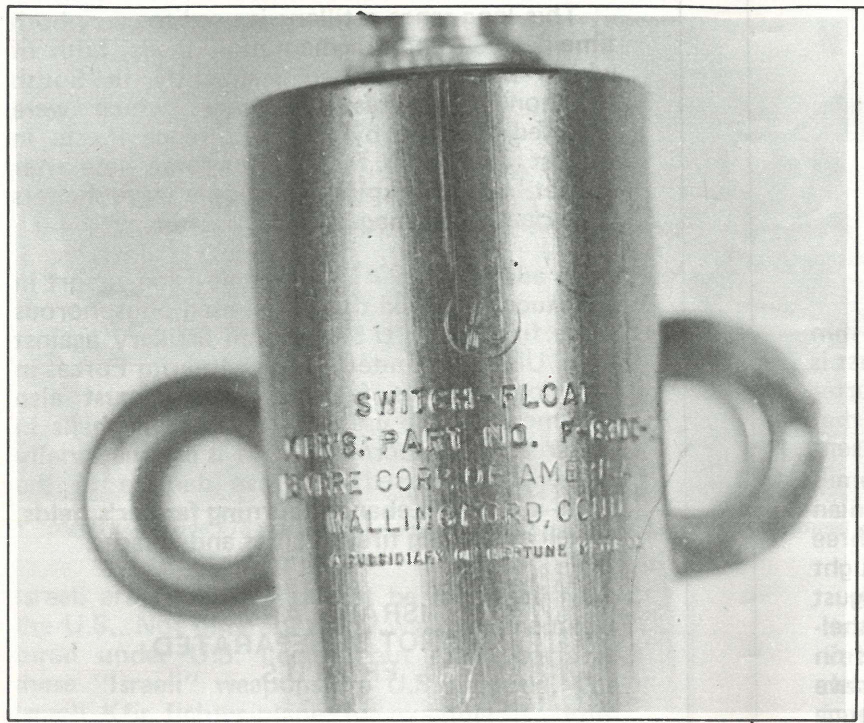
These tactics in August alone have included air and naval bombardment, heavy artillery shelling and several direct Israeli invasions. A look at one day alone, August 22, gives a sense of the human tragedy caused by these so-called "dynamic" tactics. On this day, Israeli troops invaded Lebanon in the late evening and blew up two houses in the village of Baarachit. In addition, the artillery shelling was fierce and widespread: the "International Herald Tribune" reported that "fires were started by phosphorous bombs in the barrage that ranged from coastal Tyre to deep inside the strategic Bekaa valley." Two facts emerge from this report: the Israeli use of phosphorous bombs, which are banned by the Geneva Conventions, and the Israeli intention to hit Lebanese soil wherever their guns, long-range U.S.-made artillery, can hit, as the Bekaa valley is 25 miles away from the border. Indeed, Lebanese sovereignty is not considered by Israeli leaders. On August 30, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori proclaimed: "If the terrorists are in a country which does not or cannot prevent them from operation, the responsibility for what follows is not ours."

International condemnation of Israel has mounted as a result of the severity of the recent Israeli attacks, their destabilizing effect on the region, and the intransigent and unrepentant attitude of the Israelis. In an August 29 statement, the French Government supported the Lebanese call for a Security Council meeting and noted that "Lebanon has been the target of systematic bombardment and attacks for several weeks... France firmly condemns all acts of violence against Lebanon, its citizens and institutions and also against the people to whom it has given asylum."

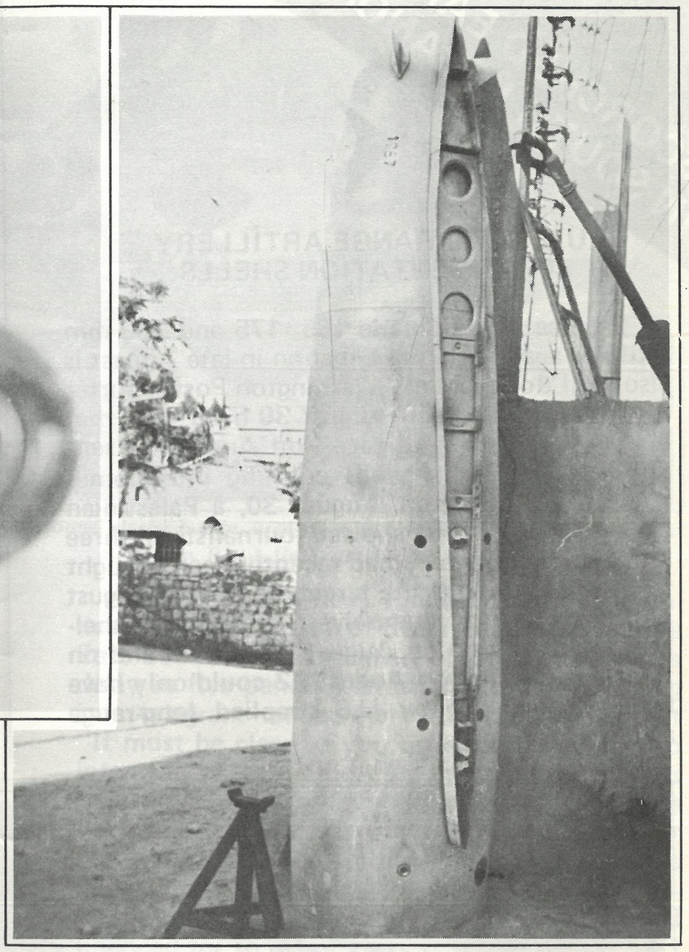
In concluding the Security Council debate on Lebanon, Andrew Young, outgoing U.S. Ambassador to the UN, gave a sharply-worded criticism of Israeli policy, with the "full authority of the United States government." Young said: "We condemn the policy of artillery shelling and pre-emptive attacks on Lebanese towns, villages, and refugee camps which Israel and the armed Lebanese groups Israel supports have followed in recent months... We cannot and do not agree with Israel's military policies in Lebanon. They are wrong and unacceptable to my government." Young's statement, the harshest U.S. criticism to date, reflects a growing U.S. concern that the explosive situation in South Lebanon will endanger the U.S.-engineered Israeli-Egyptian treaty and the "autonomy" talks now in progress, as well as harming U.S.-Arab relations in general.

OPERATION LITANI II?

To date, Israeli leaders have shown themselves prepared to flaunt world, and even U.S., opinion to continue their military campaign in South Lebanon. With momentum developing for an international consensus affirming Palestinian rights, including the right of self-determination, Israel is responding in the language it knows so well: force. The ominous possibility exists of another Israeli expansion into Lebanon, similar to the March 1978 "Operation Litani" invasion. Such a massive invasion clearly has already been planned by Israeli strategists and like the original Operation Litani, will be implemented in Israel thinks the conditions are favorable.



Part of carburator attached to F-15 tank



Extra fuelage tank released by U.S.-Israeli F-15 near the town of Nabatiyeh/South Lebanon, during dog fight with Syrian planes on July 22, 1979

U.S. WEAPONS: INSTRUMENTS OF THE DESTRUCTION

The current "controversy" over whether U.S. weapons have been used in South Lebanon is a farce with tragic effects on the population of South Lebanon. One would think that the public record of U.S. arms transfers to Israel – at a staggering one billion dollars per year – would speak for itself. The Israelis, in fact, do not bother to deny their use of these weapons. On August 30, Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zippori brushed aside U.S. scruples about deployment of U.S. weapons in Lebanon and said that Israel "did not have a special type of weapon especially for use against terrorists and another type for opponents. We fight with what we have."

F-15 IN COMBAT MISSION

And what the Israelis have is the most sophisticated arsenal of U.S. weapons. On June 26, Israel used the advanced F-15, never before used in combat, to shoot down Syrian planes and on July 22, these planes accompanied U.S.-made F-4s on a savage Israeli bombing raid of South Lebanon, with both operations admitted by the U.S. government as involving U.S. planes. The Pentagon, in fact, complained in July that U.S. condemnation of the June 26 raid prevented it from receiving a full intelligence report by the Israelis on the combat performance of the F-15.

Therefore, when the Israelis used U.S. Phantoms in an August 20 air raid against the village of Ras al Ain and other targets in South Lebanon, the State Department proclamation that the U.S. "did not know" if the planes were U.S.-made, is a case of voluntary blindness. On the level of U.S. intelligence reports alone, it is impossible to believe that the U.S. government has been left so conveniently in the dark. In addition, sources at Ras al Ain report that U.S.-supplied cluster bombs, anti-personnel weapons, were used in the August 20 attack.

SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON:

U.S. LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY, FRAGMENTATION SHELLS

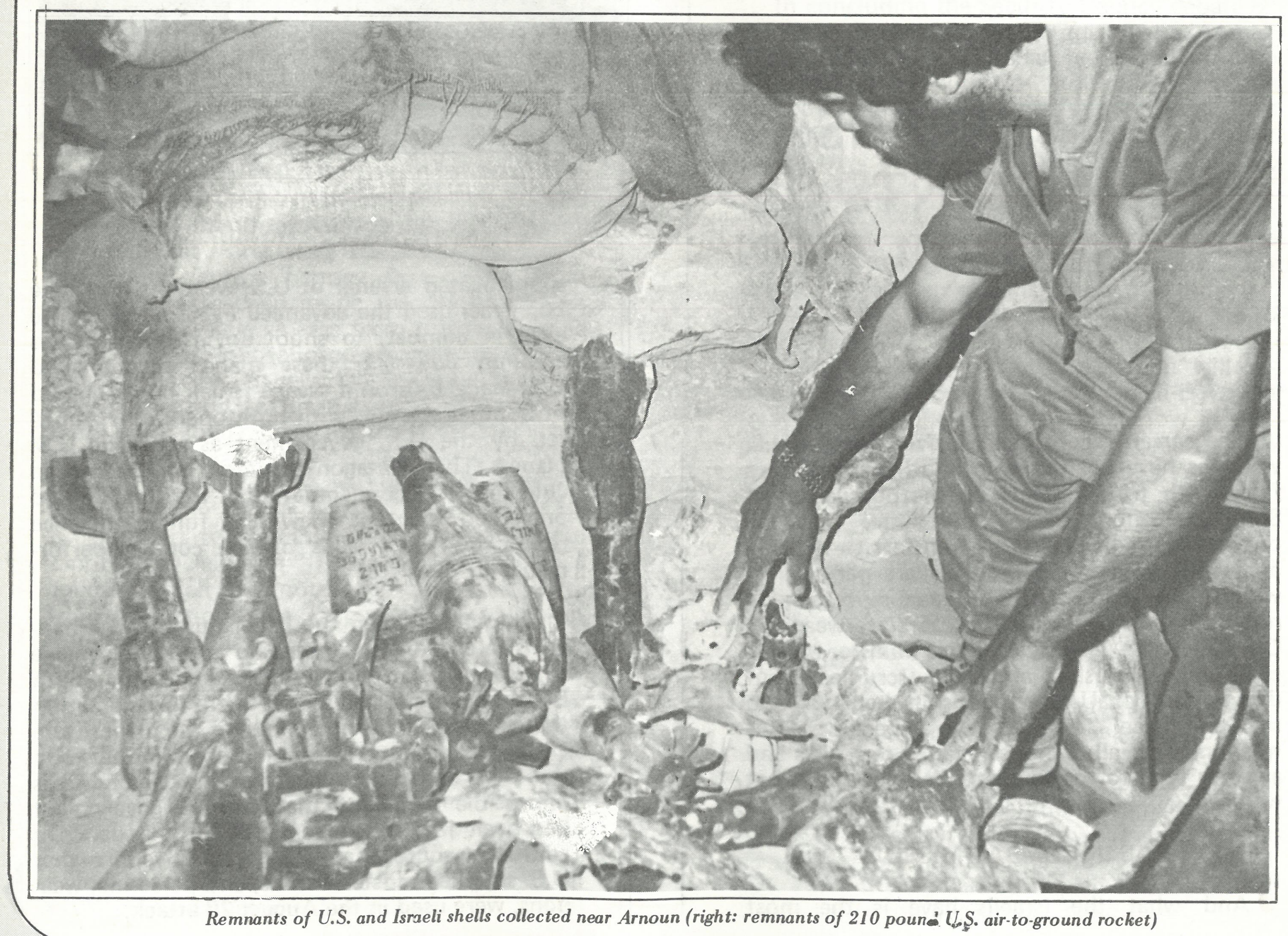
The use of U.S.-made 155, 175 and 203 mm artillery against South Lebanon in late August is also well documented. Washington Post reporter Ed Cody reported on August 30 from Tyre that a "fierce artillery barrage" on August 24 sent "155 and 175 mm shells crashing into homes and shops." Also on August 30, a Palestinian spokesman in Beirut showed journalists all three kinds of shells, which had recently been brought from Tyre. In fact, the targets hit in the August attacks speak for themselves: the artillery shelling against Sidon on August 22 and 23 and on the Beqaa Valley on August 22 could only have been carried out by U.S.-supplied long-range artillery.

This long-range artillery is used to carry both time-delayed and fragmentation shells, both of which have been used frequently in South Lebanon. Time-delayed bombs, which were reported in Tyre by Agence France Presse in August, have their fuse set for some time after impact, so they explode as people leave shelters to inspect the damage.

In addition, an American television report in late August showed that Israel used phosphorous shells fired from U.S. 175 mm artillery against Tyre. UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon) reports for July and August also document Israeli use of phosphorous shells in UN areas. Phosphorous, which is internationally banned, has caused extensive damage to the crops in South Lebanon, burning farmer's fields, as well as starting fires in cities and villages.

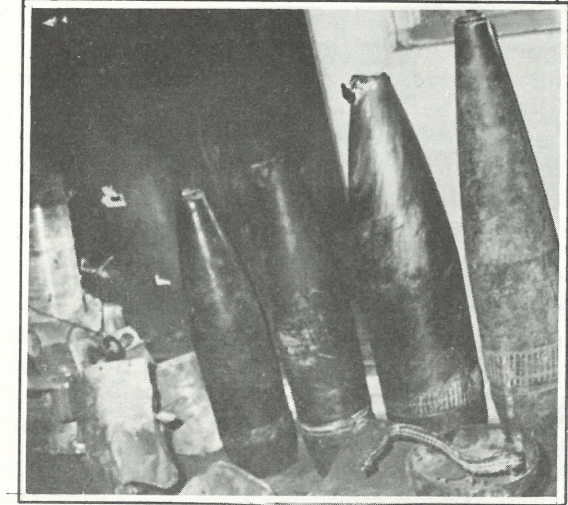
ISRAELI ARMS CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM U.S.

It should also be noted that the growing Israeli arms industry cannot be separated from the U.S.. Not only are many weapons manufactured under U.S. license, but many parts of these "Israeli" weapons are U.S.-supplied. The Israeli Kfir fighter plane, for example, is equipped with a U.S. C-130 engine, which was sold to the Israelis under the condition it be used only for "defensive" purposes. Financing, of course, both directly and indirectly, comes from the U.S. On September 14, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman will arrive in Washington to discuss joint U.S.-Israeli production of F-16 and F-18 fighter aircraft with Defense Secretary Harold Brown.

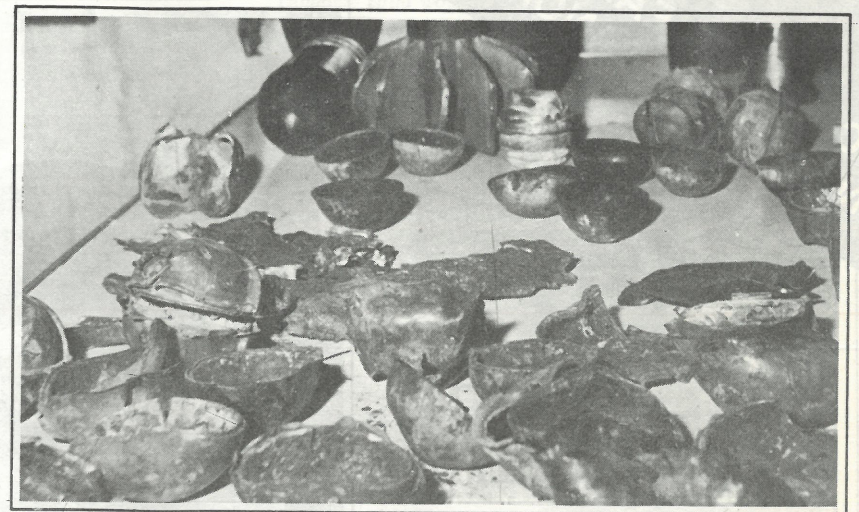


Remnants of U.S. and Israeli shells collected near Arnoun (right: remnants of 210 pound U.S. air-to-ground rocket)

Unexploded shells used recently against town of Tyre



(right: U.S.-made 175 mm shell; second from right: U.S.-made 203 mm shell)



U.S.-made anti-personnel cluster bombs, used again in early August 1979 during Israeli air raid on Ras al-Ain/South Lebanon

Representative Paul Findley, senior Republican on the House of Representatives Middle East Subcommittee, called on August 21 for a delay in five pending arms deals to Israel, saying in a telegram to Secretary of State Vance that "It must be clear to you now that Israel has no intention at this time of adhering to U.S. laws governing the use of weapons we supply." This is certainly clear. What is not clear is whether the U.S. will respect its own arms exports laws and take any action, other than verbal condemnation, against the ally it has armed and financed for so many years. ☐

PROMINENT AMERICANS SLAM U.S. "IGNOBLE ROLE"

Former United States Attorney-General Ramsey Clark said on August 29, 1979, the United States should warn Israel that it would cut off the supply of American arms unless Israel stopped using them to attack South Lebanon. Clark, recently returned from a visit to the area, said he saw enormous damage as a result of indiscriminate air and artillery attacks.

"The U.S. role has been ignoble. We have supplied the instrumentalities of destruction. We have seen the same bomb casings as in Vietnam," he told a press conference. Clark, who campaigned against the Vietnam war, said he would "like to be able to love Israel and still love justice." The U.S. finally had to decide whether it stood for law and principle in Lebanon, he said. It should tell the Israeli government that "if the use of our material does not cease immediately, they should cease the delivery of further material."

Clark said his trip was under the auspices of the United Methodist Office of the United Nations, which monitors activities at the world organization. He was accompanied by Dave Dellinger, editor of the publication Seven Days, Fred Jameson, a Yale professor, and Don Luce, co-ordinator of the Asian Center. During the tour, the four met with Palestine Liberation Organization head Yasser Arafat, Lebanon's Prime Minister Selim Hoss, religious leaders and villagers.

Dellinger said the tour of the ruins of Southern Lebanon reminded him of his 1966 visit to North Vietnam. He said that on both trips, he saw numerous schools, hospitals and churches that had been hit, even though it was claimed the bombs were only directed at military targets. Dellinger said he believed the Israeli bombings have forced 500,000 to one million people in Lebanon to flee their homes.

SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON:

THE HUMAN COST

Lebanese family in Nabatiyeh point out the place in front of their house where one of their children was killeb by a shell

Displacement of people in the Middle East is a result of politics, with specific political aims behind it. In 1948 in Palestine, the aim was the usurpation of Palestine, to take a land "without people" for the Zionists to settle on. In Lebanon during the civil war, the aim of the rightist isolationists was the rearrangement of the demographic distribution in a way that preserves their ghetto by excluding "Moslems", in fact any patriotic groups, whether Moslems or Christians. The displacement of patriotic forces from the Lebanese border region (controlled by Major Sa'ad Haddad, Israel's puppet) has aimed at establishing a security belt along the border of Israel so that the latter may have a free hand in hitting the Lebanese and Palestinians in the rest of the South in an attempt to hit at the solidarity between the two Arab peoples and at their steadfastness.

SCORCHED-EARTH POLICY

One million persons have been displaced in Lebanon since the beginning of the Civil War, i.e. one third of the Lebanese population. Among them we have 300,000 displaced persons from Karantina, Maslakh, Naba'a, Tal al Zaatar, Sin el-Fil, and Dekwana, who were expelled from East Beirut during the two year war. The number of those who have been displaced from the border strip — from Shaba'a to Nakoura — is 150,000 persons. In the rest of South Lebanon. Israel has been using a scorched-earth policy, escalating its acts of aggression against the people in the region as part of the strategy for an imperialist Middle East settlement charted under the auspices of the U.S. at Camp David. Bombardement has not stopped for even a day since April 10. Israeli artillery has been shelling Lebanese villages and towns and Palestinian camps with U.S.-made 105 mm, 155 mm, 175 mm, 203 mm artillery and fragmentation shells, while gunboats and U.S.-supplied Israeli F-5 and F-15 planes have pounded civilian concentrations with napalm, cluster bombs and missiles.

600,000 DISPLACED, 5,000 HOUSES DEMOLISHED

As a result, 600,000 citizens have fled the Israeli terror, surviving at present under extremely dangerous conditions. At least 5,000 houses have been destroyed. Many villages have been demolished, such as al-Khiam (1000 houses destroyed), Taibeh (700 houses), Haneen (190 houses), Rashaf (200 houses) and al-Chandouriah (60 houses). The rest of the towns and villages in the South have suffered extreme damage and destruction.

1,000 DEAD, 3,000 WOUNDED

Some 1,000 people have died and 3,000 have been wounded due to the continuous Israeli war of aggression against the South. Most of these were unarmed civilians. Now, most of the villages and towns of the South are almost deserted. Their inhabitants have left them for more 'secure' places.

Where do these refugees go? They are found all over Lebanon, but mostly in Sidon, which is considered the nearest "safe" refuge. Sidon's population is officially estimated 50,000, but the city is crowded now with 150,000 persons, in addition to 15,000 in the near-by camps and 50,000 refugees, which brings Sidon's total number of inhabitants to 275,000 persons.

During the "Fitr" feast, alone, between 23-25 August, 15,000 families fled the Israeli bombardment, most of them coming — from the southe in port of Tyre. Every school, monastry and garage in Sidon is crowded with refugees from the South.

AL-ISLAH SCHOOL

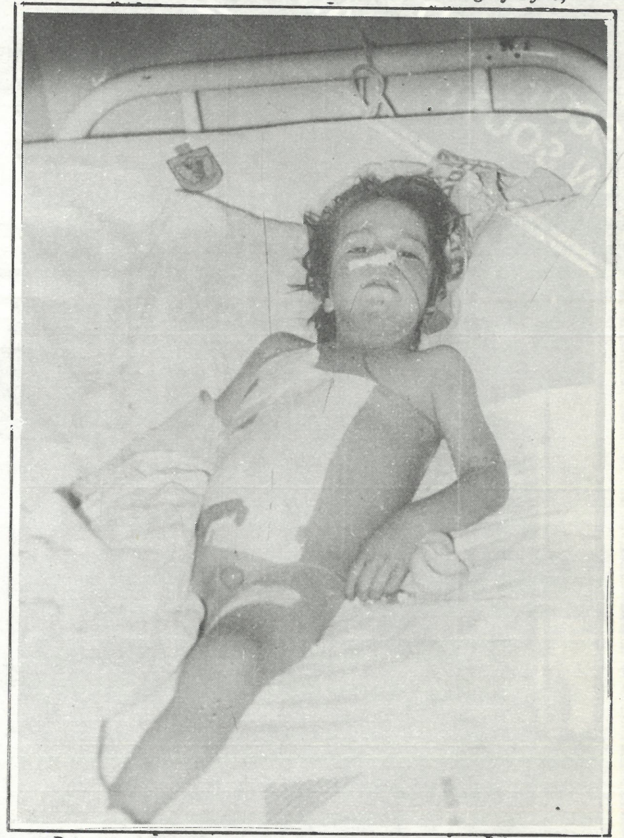
In al-Islah School alone, 58 families are living under extremely bad conditions. As we entered the schoolyard, children and women gatherd around us, shouting in fury: "No one wants to help us, so we don't want anyone". The responsible for the school, a member of the Sidon Nasserite Organization established by late Ma'arouf Sa'ad, told us that there are about 480 persons in the school, among them 150 children and infants. They are herded in to the rooms of the school. In one rrom, we actually saw 40 persons living together! The only assistance available is blankets. There are no kitchens and few toilets, so every family is living, sleeping and cooking in the same room.

INSUFFICIENT AID

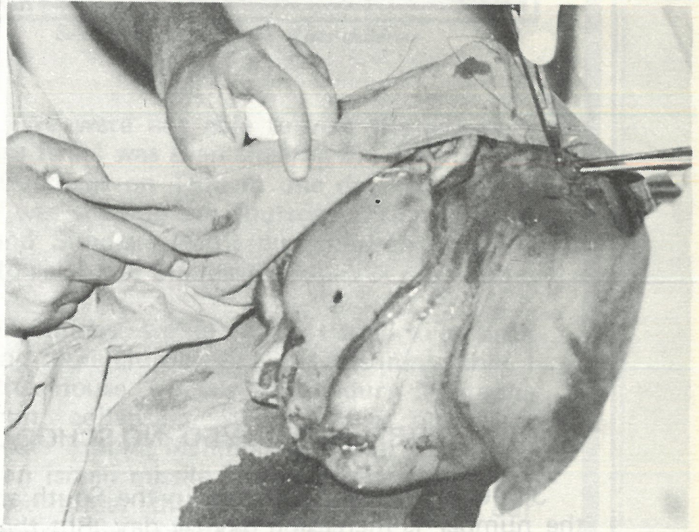
We should note that United States Ambassador to Lebanon, John G. Dean, recently presented $ 9 million for aid to South Lebanon. (Compare this sum with American assistance to Israel, which reaches $ 2.2 billion a year, 1 billion of which is military aid. Moreover, there will be an increase in this assistance because of the 'peace' package).

Peasant family near Nabatiyeh in front of their shattered house

Lebanese child wounded during Israeli shelling of Tyre,



at Palestine Red Crescent hospital in Sidon, August 24, 1979



Child wounded in Tyre on August 24, 1979, at Palestine Red Crescent hospital in Sidon

As for the Arab countries, Saudi Arabia has given $ 5 million and has sent eight batches of medical and food supplies. Iraq has given a total of $ 12 million, Qatar $ 5 million and Kuwait $ 10 million. This aid is being distributed through the South Council and the Supreme Committee for Relief. Of couse, the most helpful aid required is the building of shelters in the South to strengthen the steadfasteness of the people, and help them remain in their homes and villages.

SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON:

Refugees at al-Islah School/Sidon

AGRICULTURE DESTROYED, NO SCHOOLS

3,000 have been wounded in the South and the number is increasing day by day. But there are only a few hospitals in the whole area: one in Tyre, four in Sidon and one in Tibneen. In Hasbaya region there is but one dispensary. The Lebanese Popular Succour organization (LPS) together with the Red Crescent are cooperating to help the wounded in spite of the scandalous shortage of medicines. Most of the wounded are sent to Beirut hospitals after receiving first aid.

On the economic level, Southern tobacco, the main source of the Southerner's livelihood, and which represents 75% of the country's tobacco output, has been destroyed. Losses in 1979 alone amount to over L.L. 60 million. The war in the South has also damaged or destroyed other corps, electrical plants, the Tyre harbor and hospitals, leaving thousands unemployed.

As for the educational situation, as a result of the continuous bombarment of the South and especially after the shelling of schools, teaching has stopped, and 62,000 students are now not attending school.

Rula Amin, a 9 year old girl from Ramel Street in Tyre, shrugged her little shoulders in bewilderment when I asked her if she wanted to go back to school to Tyre. She muttered: "I would love to. But.. I don't want to die"

HOW LONG WILL THE WORLD SHUT ITS EARS?

These hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes and villages need help, and fast. They are living in intolerable conditions, with no where to go. Their children have the right to a normal life, to a good education. But Israel is depriving then of every right, even their right of existence itself. How much longer will the world shut its ears to the cries of South Lebanon's innocents?

"EVERYWHERE I GO, I FIND WAR"

Na'imeh Bazzi, 10, was displaced with her family twice. The first time from Bint Jbail to Tyre and the second time from Tyre to Sidon. We had met with her in al-Islah school in Sidon. She is "living" there with her family, but she is not able to pursue her studies:

"In Bint Jbail I was studying in the third elementary class in the state school there. We were happy there. I had my friends whom I used to play and study with. Then the Phalangists massacred the people in the village. Haddad entered Bint Jbail. He receives arms from Israel. Israel takes arms from America. They both fight us. We ran away to Tyre and I entered a school there. But the shelling kept getting nearer and nearer, so we have stopped going to school since April."

— "Are you happy here"?

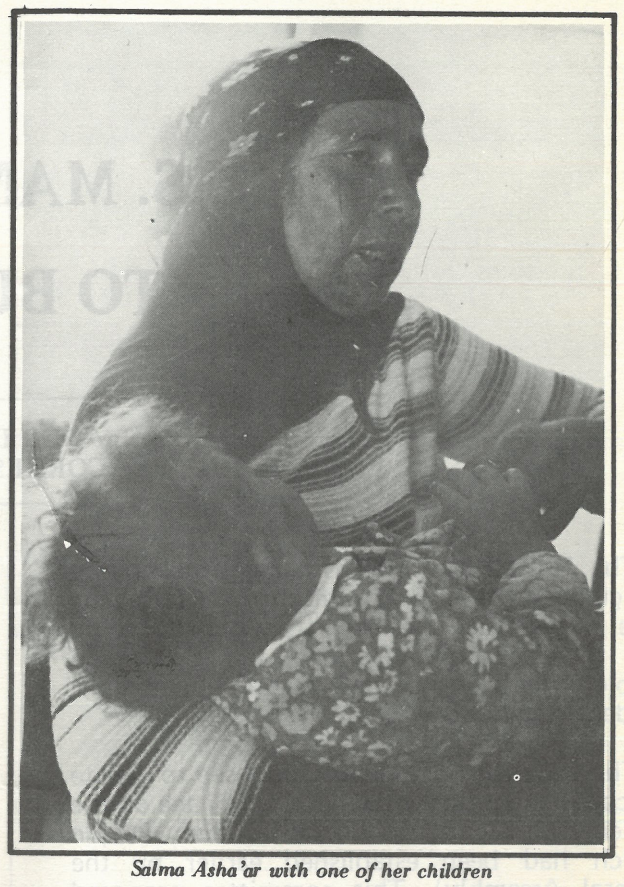
— "No. Everywhere I go I find war. And here I cannot see my friends. Yes, I play. But I was happier in Tyre although I was not able to celebrate the feast because of the shelling. How I would love to go back to Tyre, but not before the shelling stops."

She put her small hand on mine and said: "Please, if you see anyone from America tell him not to give Israel arms so that we may go back to our homes."

"SHELLS AND BOMBS WERE EXPLODING EVERYWHERE"

Salma Asha'ar a 50-years old Lebanese woman from Tyre told about the terror she and her family had experienced during the Israeli shelling of Tyre August 24-27:

"I have fourteen children and grandchildren. The youngest of my sons is seven years old. On Sunday (August 26) we left Tyre because shells and bombs were exploding everywhere. My husband used to be a porter. But since the continuous shelling of Tyre began, no one has been able to work. On the feast day (the Islamic Al-Fitr feast), they pounded us with hundreds of shells. We were not able to visit the cemetery because Israel was even shelling the dead. Imagine: 550 shells on Tyre in one day. It's unfair. There was shelling on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Don't our children have the right to celebrate the feast?



Salma Asha'ar with one of her children

"On Sunday, we left Tyre. I tried to go back to bring some clothes, but this was impossible. I saw the house of our neighbour, Mustapha Baydoun, collapsing. We dug him out from under the rubble. Mahmoud Al-Bitar was killed when an Israeli missile hit his house. His corpse remained under the rubble until one of our neighbours, by accident, discovered his leg extending from under the stones of his house. There are still many, people under the rubble of destroyed houses. You see, they were shelling us from air, sea and by airplanes, gunboats and cannons...

"We demand that the Arab countries fight, to stop Israel from shelling us. America? No, I wouldn't ask anything from it. It is the one backing Israel... The whole world has sold the South to Israel."

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON PALESTINE:

U.S. MANOEUVRES TO BUY TIME

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has been witnessing an intriguing battle of wits in recent weeks over the issue of whether the Security Council should pass a resolution affirming the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and independent statehood.

The Security Council was supposed to debate a recommendation by the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (which had been established earlier by the General Assembly). This committee proposed the adoption of a resolution specifying the right of Palestinian exiles to return to their homes and of the Palestinian people as a whole to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty in their ancestral homeland, Palestine.

Admittedly, this debate should never have been necessary in the first place. The UN Charter acknowledged the rights of every people on earth to self-determination, so there should be no need to adopt any separate resolution affirming that the Palestinian people also have this right.

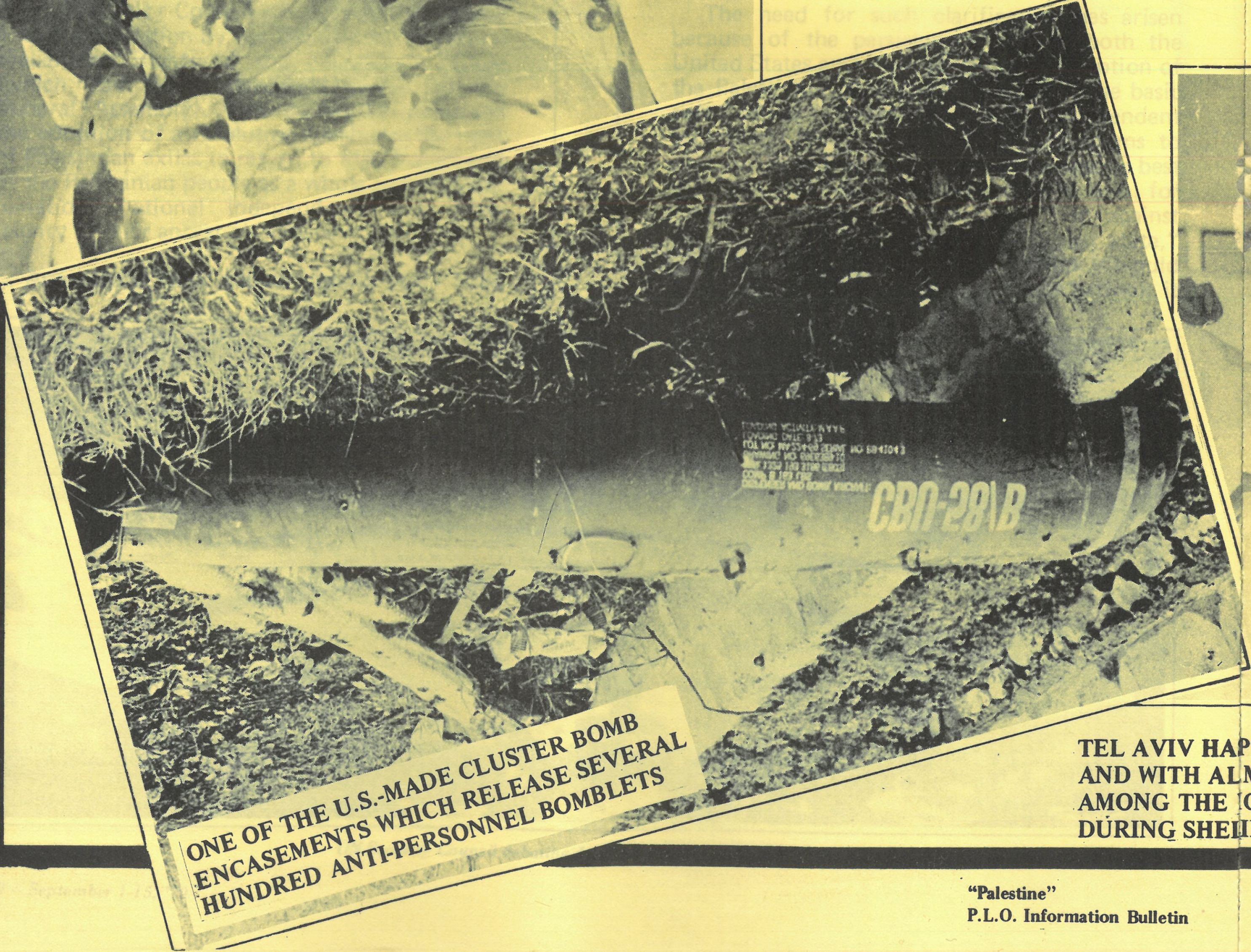
The need for such clarification has arisen because of the persistent efforts of both the United States and Israel to make an exception of the Palestinian people and deny them the basic right of self-determination and independent statehood. President Carter, indeed, seems to consider himself qualified to decide what is best not only for the Palestinians, but also for everyone else in the Middle East. "I am against any creation of a separate Palestinian state," Carter declared recently. "I don't think it would be good for the Palestinians. I don't think it

UN Security Council debating draft resolution on Palestine

SCORCHED EARTH IN SOUTH LEBANON

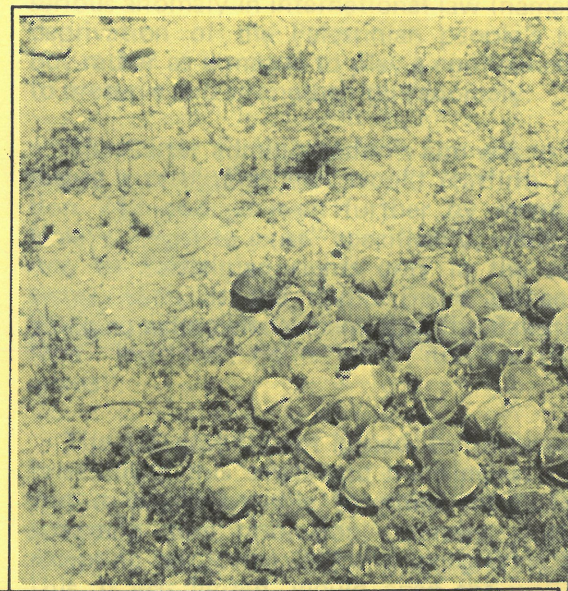
REMAINS OF A HOUSE IN THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER OF TYRE, BOMBED ON AUGUST 23, 1979 →

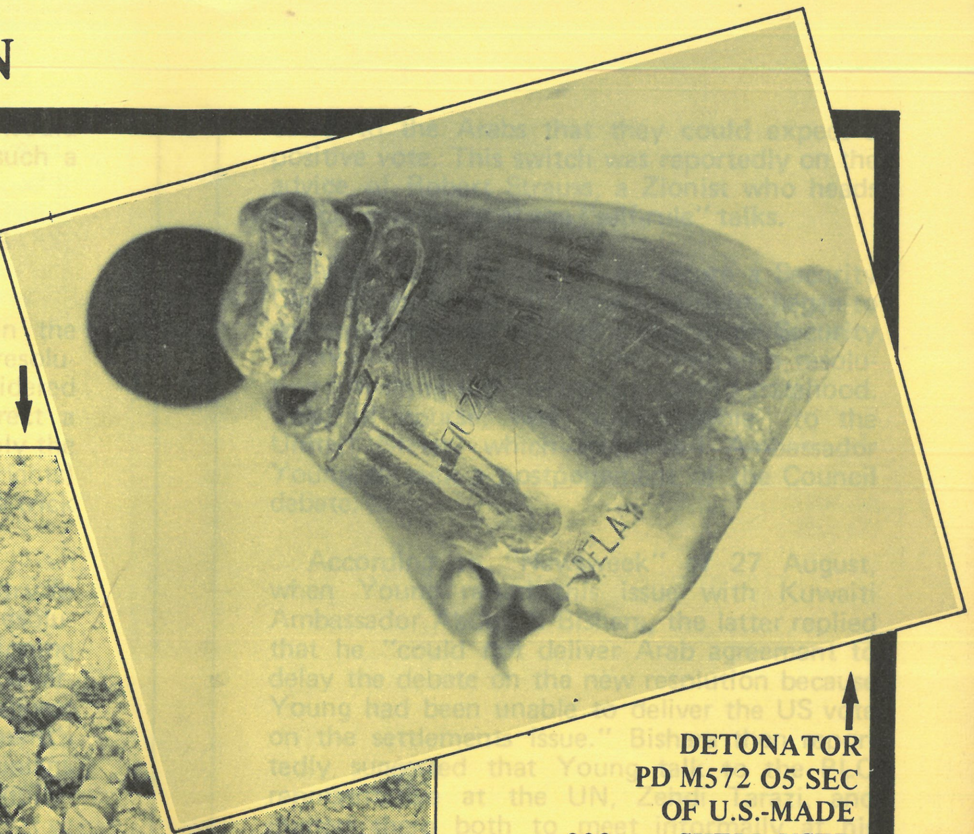
ISRAELI "MILITARY TARGETS": GIRL KILLED DURING ISRAELI AIR RAID ON DAMOUR, JULY 1979 ↓



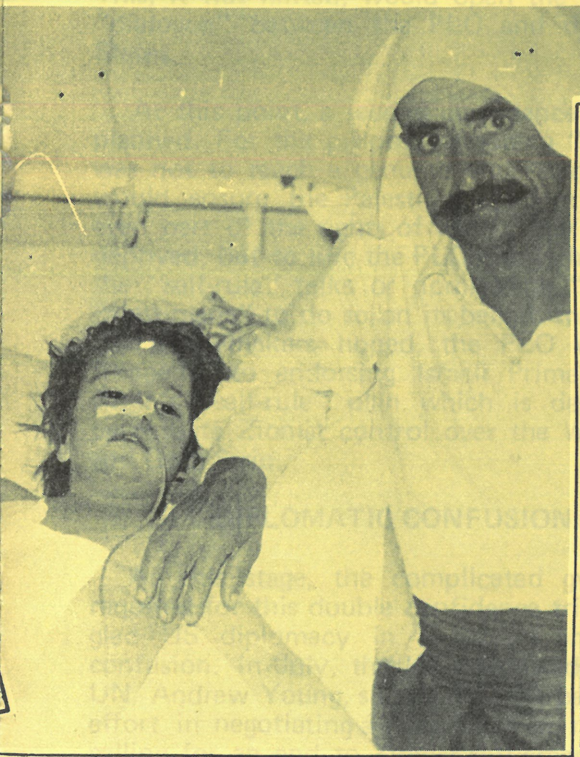
ONE OF THE U.S.-MADE CLUSTER BOMB ENCASEMENTS WHICH RELEASE SEVERAL HUNDRED ANTI-PERSONNEL BOMBLETS

U.S.-ISRAELI 'GIFTS' FOR CHILDREN IN LEBANON: CLUSTER BOMBLETS ↓





DETONATOR PD M572 O5 SEC OF U.S.-MADE 203 mm SHELL USED AGAINST TOWN OF TYRE ↑



TEL AVIV HAPLEDGED TO STRIKE EVERYWHERE AND WITH ALMEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL: AMONG THE CTIMS: A PEASANT'S CHILD WOUNDED DURING SHELLING OF TYRE IN LATE AUGUST 1979 ↑

THIS IS WHAT REMAINS AFTER ISRAELI AIR ATTACK ON THE VILLAGE OF DAMOUR, MAY 1979 ↓

would be good for Israel. I don't think it would be good for the Arab neighbours of such a state."

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONFIDENCE TRICK

This is where the problems began in the efforts to obtain a new Security Council resolution. The United States government considered this resolution not as a means to correct a serious anomaly in international law (namely the deprivation of the Palestinian people's rights) but rather as a means to play a confidence trick to preserve and strengthen this anomaly.

The Carter administration's aim was to try to secure a resolution that would reaffirm resolution 242 and go even further by mentioning Israel's "right to exist" specifically, while referring to Palestinian rights only in the vaguest terms, such as the Camp David agreement's grudging acknowledgement that the Palestinians have "legitimate rights" and "justified requirements".

The US government hoped, by throwing the Palestinians this small and meaningless crumb, that it would be able to entice the PLO into accepting this resolution, thereby implicitly accepting resolution 242 and recognising Israel. This, it was hinted, would open the way for a "dialogue" between the PLO and the United States.

At this point, a second confidence trick was planned. For the purpose of such a "dialogue" was not to reach a genuine understanding that would ensure the Palestinian people obtained even part of the rights of which they had been deprived, but to lure the PLO into either joining the "self-rule" talks or nominating "moderate Palestinians" to do so on its behalf. In this way, US policymakers hoped, the PLO would be trapped into endorsing Israeli Prime Minister Begin's "self-rule" plan which is designed to perpetuate Zionist control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

DIPLOMATIC CONFUSION

At this stage, the complicated gymnastics required for this double confidence trick entangled US diplomacy in a certain amount of confusion. In July, the US Ambassador at the UN, Andrew Young, succeeded with painstaking effort in negotiating a compromise resolution calling for an end to Zionist settlements in the West Bank, in terms moderate enough for the United States to vote for it.

However, shortly before the vote, the US government changed its mind and instructed its delegation to abstain – after Young had indicated to the Arabs that they could expect a positive vote. This switch was reportedly on the advice of Robert Strauss, a Zionist who heads the US delegation at the "self-rule" talks.

After that, the moves to secure a Security Council resolution on Palestinian rights began to gain momentum. Kuwait, the Arab Security Council member at the time, drafted a resolution affirming the Palestinian right to statehood. This, of course, was "unacceptable" to the United States, which instructed Ambassador Young to seek a postponement of the Council debate.

According to "Newsweek" of 27 August, when Young raised this issue with Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdullah Bishara, the latter replied that he "could not deliver Arab agreement to delay the debate on the new resolution because Young had been unable to deliver the US vote on the settlements issue." Bishara then reportedly suggested that Young talk to the PLO representative at the UN, Zehdi Tarazi, and invited them both to meet informally at his home. At this meeting, on 26 July, Young argued in favour of a postponement of the debate, which in fact was delayed until 23 August.

THE ROLE OF ISRAELI ESPIONAGE

It was at this point that US policy planners lost control of the game, when the Israelis learned that this meeting had taken place and leaked the information to "Newsweek", thus forcing Young's resignation.

Diplomatic sources have confirmed to *Palestine* that the "Atlanta Constitution" was correct in reporting that Israeli intelligence spied on the Young-Tarazi meeting, using electronic equipment. Despite energetic Israeli denials, the diplomatic sources were able to supply further details of the espionage operation.

Israeli intelligence agents set up the electronic equipment to eavesdrop on conversations in Ambassador Bishara's house on 24 July, two days before the controversial meeting took place. They also had Tarazi under surveillance on his way to Bishara's home.

Having secured this information, the Israelis resolved to use it to force Ambassador Young out of his post. According to diplomats, President Carter himself ordered Young to resign, at the prompting of the Zionist lobby. Carter felt indebted to the lobby for favours its members had done for him in the past, and felt that he needed its support for his re-election.

Had Carter wished to resist Zionist pressure, he had a perfectly good excuse available. While

▶

U.S. MANOEUVRES TO BUY TIME

the United States government has the authority to order its ambassadors not to speak to PLO representatives, it has no right to demand this of the President of the UN Security Council. It is perfectly arguable that it was in the latter capacity that Young met with Tarazi, in order to discuss a Security Council matter.

THE EFFECTS OF THE YOUNG AFFAIR

In their eagerness to "get rid of Young", the Zionists (both the Israeli government and the US Zionist lobby) bahaved with remarkable clumsiness, setting in motion a whole series of processes that are likely to cause them serious damage in the long run.

In the first place, they have undermined President Carter's position not only with millions of Afro-American voters who were decisive in his election in 1976, but also in the eyes of US and world public opinion in general. The whole affair has made Carter appear weak and unable to resist Zionist pressure. This is a poor way for the Zionists to repay an American President who has given Israel immense help, not only in terms of billions of dollars of aid and highly sophisticated modern weapons, but also in securing Sadat's signature to a treaty which greatly benefits Israel's position.

The most striking and immediate result of Young's forced resignation was the angry reaction by Afro-Americans. As one of their leading spokesmen, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, put it: "So the President has apparently decided to sacrifice Africa, the Third World and Black Americans." Black Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm said that Carter had made Young "a scapegoat for the entire muddled mess in the Middle East."

In effect, the Palestinian national rights question has now been raised as an issue for debate among the American people for the first time, thanks to the Zionist "get rid of Young" campaign. One aspect of the debate that intelligent Americans, whatever their ethnic origins, cannot fail to miss is that their country's Ambassador at the UN can be dismissed from his post for meeting someone of whom Israel disapproves. This must arouse profound feelings among Americans who wish to preserve the dignity of their country as a major power.

PLO Representative to the UN, Zehdi Tarazi, intervening on behalf of Palestine

THE STRAUSS MISSION

In a desperate effort to salvage its move in the Security Council, the Carter administration sent Robert Strauss to visit Egypt and Israel two days after Young's resignation. His mission was to persuade Sadat and Begin to support the US formula for a Security Council resolution containing a vague reference to Palestinian rights.

Despite the fact that Strauss put forward some 15 proposals for drafting the resolution, including the specific mention of Israel's "right to exist", both Sadat and Begin rejected all the formulas offered, and stressed their opposition to any modification of the 242 formula. Sadat indicated that his reason for rejecting a new resolution was that it might steal the limelight from his initiative.

Diplomatic sources say Sadat is now in full agreement with the Israeli insistence that the Palestinian people should be denied independent statehood, and that Palestinian refugees now in Lebanon should remain there. Strauss also supports these views.

After Strauss returned to Washington from his abortive mission, differences arose between him and Secretary of State Vance. The main point of argument was Strauss' accusation that Vance knew in advance that Young would meet Tarazi and should have prevented the meeting. If Strauss is correct on this point, it reveals the dishonesty of Zionist news media attempts to discredit Young by claiming that he did not tell Vance the truth about his talks with Tarazi. By trying to make it appear that Young was dismissed for lying rather than for talking to a PLO representative, the Zionists are trying to conceal the fact that their pressure forced his resignation.

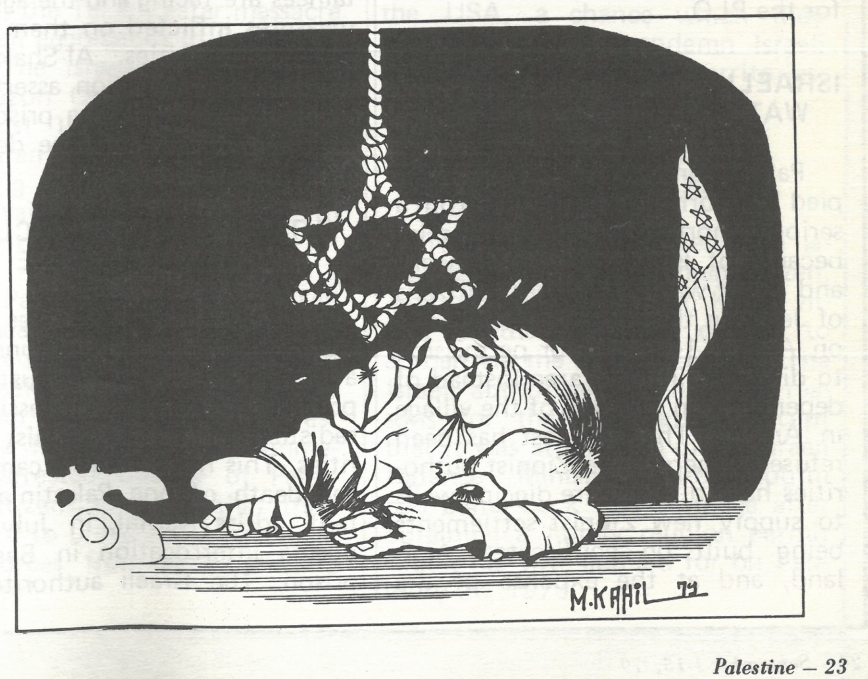
DEADLOCK AND ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT

The Security Council met again on 23 August as scheduled, but no progress could be made towards passing a resolution. The deadlock remained owing to the United States' insistence on vetoing any resolution containing any real acknowledgement of Palestinian national rights, and its inability at the same time to find even a vague formula that would not offend the Israelis and Sadat.

Consequently, the debate was again postponed, reportedly owing to the Arab delegations' desire not to place Ambassador Young in the awkward position of having to cast a veto which he felt was wrong. In addition some Arab countries, notably Saudi Arabia, wanted to give Carter more time to think about the issues involved before having to decide whether or not to use the veto.

A draft resolution affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is on record, so the Security Council can be reconvened to vote on it at any time the PLO and the Arab states deem appropriate. It may well be reconvened after the Non-Aligned summit in Havana, and possibly also after the forthcoming General Assembly debate on the Palestinian question.

If the Security Council is prevented by the US veto from taking the necessary decision, the issue can then be referred back to an emergency General Assembly meeting. So the current diplomatic offensive at the United Nations is far from over, and is likely to produce some interesting developments in the coming weeks.



OCCUPATION DIARY

PALESTINIAN UNION LEADERS ARRESTED

The Israeli authorities have recently arrested and imprisoned several Palestinian labor union leaders in the occupied territories without any charge. The detainees are Muhammad Labadi, from the Workers' Union in Bethlehem; Mahmoud Ziad, from the Union of Hotel and Restaurant Workers; and Ali Abu Hillal, of the Abu Dis Workers' Union. The Israeli authorities have also arrested Zuhaira Badawi, President of the Female Work Committee in the Jerusalem and Ramallah regions. National forces, municipal councils and social organisations in the occupied West Bank have begun a solidarity campaign with the union leaders to force the Israeli authorities to release them as have the Committee of Defense of Prisoners in the Galilee, and the Democratic Women's Movement.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CLOSE GAZA OFFICES OF PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT

The Israeli authorities recently closed down the offices of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza. Sources from the occupied territories reported that the Israeli Military Governor of the Gaza Strip ordered the closure because of the Palestinian Red Crescent's support for the PLO.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CUT OFF WATER SUPPLIES IN JENIN

Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories are suffering from a serious shortage in water supplies because of Israeli seizures of wells and other water resources. Citizens of Jenin in the occupied West Bank on August 14 asked for permission to dig wells in their area instead of depending on the well of the village in Arabeh. Their request has been refused, whereas the Zionist authorities have dug and are digging wells to supply new Zionist settlements being built on confiscated Arab land, and at the expense of the water available to the local Arab population.

OCCUPATION DIARY ISRAEL TRANSFERS NABLUS WATER TO NEARBY SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli authorities are presently laying pipes to transfer most of the water supplies in Nablus to the following nearby settlements: Kfar Qaddum, Scava, Yasuf, Tefwah and others. Moreover, the Israeli authorities prohibited the use of local water resources and consequently have increased the already existing water problem. This practice is yet another attempt to force Palestinian citizens in the area to evacuate.

MAYOR AL SHAK'A VISITS DETAINEES IN NABLUS PRISON

Bassam al-Shak'a, Mayor of Nablus, several members of the Municipal Council, and the Nablus Shari'a judge visited Palestinian detainees in Nablus prison over the al-Fitr holiday, on August 27. During the meeting with the detainees' representatives, al-Shak'a was informed of the problems the detainees are facing and the aggressive measures inflicted on them by the prison authorities. Al-Shak'a and the Nablus delegation asserted the necessity of improving prison conditions, and granting the detainees prisoner of war status.

ARAB PRISONERS DECLARE HUNGER STRIKE

Israeli police arrests Arab youth

The Palestinian detainees in Ashkelon and Beersheba prisons began a hunger strike on August 28 in protest against the aggressive and sadistic acts of the Zionist authorities. This hunger strike came after the death of one Palestinian militant, Idriss Naufal, in July 1979, during interrogation in Beersheba prison. The Israeli authorities had refused to notify the Red Cross of what had happened, claiming that the militant had committed suicide, and they turned down a request from the Red Cross to examine the body.

NATIONALIST INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES DEMAND SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON DETAINEES' CONDITIONS

On August 29, nationalist and socialist institutions in the occupied territories sent a memorandum to the Algerian, Pakistani and Iraqi Embassies in Amman, urging them to establish a committee of representatives from Arab, Islamic and Non-Aligned countries to pursue the project of a U.N. Security Council meeting to look into the conditions of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. The memorandum pointed out the deteriorating health and psychological conditions of the prisoners due to the continuous violation of their human rights. It insisted on the necessity of implementing Decrees, 5, 9 and 25 of the Charter of Human Rights. The memorandum also called for sending a neutral international committee to look into the conditions of the prisoners and stated that these cruel measures are aimed at the liquidation of the prisoners. Such measures led to the death of the Palestinian militant, Idriss Ibrahim Naufal.

STUDENTS RELEASED, MORE ARRESTS

The Israeli authorities on August 13 released seven Bethlehem university students who served a three month sentence and paid a fine of IL 10,000. Meanwhile, another student, Jaser Hirman, is to serve two more months in prison. The students were arrested last May on charges of resisting Israeli occupation when Israeli forces stormed the Bethlemem University campus. In Ramallah, a Zionist military tribunal sentenced Othman Barham from Beit Sahour to a fine of IL 3,000 on charges of circulating banned Palestinian paintings at his shop.

The Mayor of the town of al-Bireh in the West Bank called on the Israeli authorities to release tens of Palestinian administrative detainees. He called for stopping the Israeli oppressive measures against West Bank muncipalities and to allow them to bring their money to execute vital projects.

MORE ISRAELI REPRESSION

Gaza: On August 15, Omar al-Shurafa (22) and Muhammad Abu Attallah (25) were placed under administrative detention.

FREEDOM
FOR PALESTINIAN DETAINEES
IN ISRAELI JAILS

West Bank mayors Shaka'a (center right) and Qawasmeh (center) in dispute with a captain of the Zionist occupation forces

Nablus: On August 14, an Israeli military tribunal sentenced Abdul Aziz Abed al-Nasser Abu Aziz to 38 years imprisonment on charges of affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution.

Jerusalem: Israeli soldiers on August 15 broke into the homes of several Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem, and arrested a number of them because of nationalist slogans written on walls.

Ramallah: Adnan Burum has recently been fined IL 3,000 on charges of selling drawings and pamphlets dealing with the Palestinian question, the Tel al-Zaatar massacre and Israeli aggressions in South Lebanon. The Israeli authorities raided Jalazon Camp near Ramallah on August 16 and arrested three men and an old woman there without giving any reason for it. Tension prevailed at the camp due to this unjust detention.

Tell: Palestinian citizens in Tell village near Nablus on August 13 confronted Israeli soldiers who were breaking into the house of Palestinian Ibrahim Shita, to arrest him. The Israeli authorities immediately arrested dozens of Palestinian citizens, claiming that they attempted to prevent the Israeli security forces from accomplishing their 'duty'.

ISRAEL PROHIBITS SHAKA'A AND QAWASMEH TRAVEL

The Israeli authorities in mid-August issued an order prohibiting the mayors of Nablus and Hebron, Bassam al-Shaka'a and Fahd Qawasmeh, respectively, from leaving to the USA to take part in the conference of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in Washington. An Israeli military spokesman had also stated that the authorities have adopted this resolution following Shaka'a's and Qawasmeh's rejection of the Israeli authorities' orders. The Israeli daily newspaper "Yediot Aharonot", which published this news item, reported that the Israeli autorities will never permit the two mayors to give political lectures in the USA, a chance which they would exploit to condemn Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

ISRAELIS DEPORT PALESTINIAN CITIZEN

The Israeli authorities have lately deported a Palestinian citizen, Atef al-Barghouthi, from Kobar village in the Ramallah district to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge. The Israeli authorities did not give reasons for the deportation, except that it was at the wish of the Israeli Defence Minister. Al-Barghouthi had come back to his village after obtaining a family reunion permit which his wife applied for on February 26, 1979.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Israeli police in Tel Aviv search for more explosive charges

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE IN JERUSALEM

No. 127/79:

Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories, in their tenth operation in August 1979, placed a highly explosive charge inside the offices of the Israeli Income Tax Department in Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem, on August 9. The charge exploded at exactly 11:30 pm, damaging all the furniture in the office and breaking the windows of the building. Israeli security forces immediately closed the street, combed the area for other charges, and searched the houses in the area and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens on the basis of suspicion. Our unit returned safely to base.

No. 128/79:

Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories on August 12 placed a timed high explosive charge inside a military transportation station in Ashkelon. The charge exploded at 7:30 a.m., at rush hour, killing and wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers, and causing heavy material damage to the station and to nearby stores. Radio Israel admitted the operation the next day, and said that the charge was placed in a military bus station. Our unit returned safely to base.

No. 129/79:

A special commando unit operating inside the occupied territories on August 11, placed a timed explosive TNT charge in a military bus station in the French Fill area in Jerusalem. At 11:15 the charge was discovered, and the area was immediately evacuated, but the charge exploded when an explosives expert tried to move it, killing him and wounding two other Israeli soldiers. An arrest campaign followed the explosion and continued for nearly two days. Radio Israel admitted the operation. Our militants returned safely to base.

COMMANDO OPERATION IN TEL AVIV REGION

No. 130/79:

Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories on August 14 placed timed explosive charges inside military cooperative warehouses in Jerusalem Street in the Bnei Brak settlement, near Tel Aviv. The charges exploded at exactly 12:30 p.m., killing and wounding an unspecified number of Israelis. Heavy material damage was caused to the cooperative building and its contents as a result of the fire that followed the explosion. Radio Israel admitted the operation and said that the Israeli police are investigating the incident. Our unit returned safely to base.

COMMANDOS DESTROY HAIFA-TEL AVIV RAILWAY LINE

No. 133/79:

A special Palestinian commando unit on August 16 placed timed explosive charges under the Haifa-Tel Aviv railway, near Natanya. The charges exploded at 5.50 a.m., when a military train reached the site, killing and wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers, destroying most of the train's cars and their contents, and damaging large parts of the railway. Radio Israel admitted the operation, and said that the Haifa-Tel Aviv railway was closed as a result of the incident. Our unit returned safely to base.

SEA BATTLE ON JERUSALEM DAY

The Palestine Liberation Front announced on August 19 a predawn seaborne attack by a commando unit on the al-Zeib area in the northern Palestinian coastal region. An Israeli spokesman admitted the operation, saying that a battle took place between the guerillas and the Israeli naval forces, and that the Palestinian guerillas used RPG rockets against Israeli naval units. Three guerillas were captured, and the fourth who was wounded in the clash was believed to have drowned. The PLF issued a communique saying that the raid was meant to coincide with the celebration of the Jerusalem Day. The group, code-named "Tal al-Zaatar", included First Lt. Ghazi Khalil Ismail, 24; First Lt. Hamza Mohammad Isa, 28; Khaled Sabri Shartin, 24; and Mohammad Diab Mansour, 19.

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

ISRAELI TERROR AGENT ARRESTED IN EUROPE

An Israeli, David Tzerkes, 37, of Tiberias was arrested when explosives were found in his car in Venice, on August 28. They said Tzerkes was detained when he disembarked his car from a ferry coming from Haifa via Cyprus and Greece. The police found three kilograms (seven pounds) of explosives, detonators, fuses and a pistol under a false floor in the car. Tzerkes was said to be travelling with an Austrian passport and to be heading for Austria or West Germany.

STRIKE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE AGAINST BEN GAL'S RACIST DECLARATIONS

"It is an inalienable right of our people to live and to progress on its land and in its country..., we will fight for our land and our country." This was the slogan of the local Arab authorities and Palestinian masses in Galilee and the Triangle region during the hour-long strike from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. that was carried out August 30 against racist statements made by Israel's General Avigdor Ben-Gal, and the attempts to erase the Palestinian nationality of the Arabs of Galilee and to force them to leave their lands. In early August, Ben-Gal told a group of Knesset members visiting the occupied Golan Heights that "the Arabs of Galilee are a cancer in the body of the (Israeli) nation... For this reason we must give preference to settlements in Galilee over settlements in the Golan Heights."

During the strike, the streets and squares of the cities and villages of Galilee were covered with slogans against racial discrimination and the confiscation of Arab lands, while one publication which was distributed in occupied Palestine called for the dismissal of Ben Gal, and for bringing him to trial immediately.

Tewfiq Zayyad, the Mayor of Nazareth, described these declarations in a press conference on August 30 as an integral part of the policy of discrimination against the Palestinians, some of the most conspicuous aspects of which are the way the people of Ma'alia were treated, and the meetings of the security authorities in Western Galilee, in addition to the law permitting the Confiscation of the land of the Arabs of the Negev and its complete Judaization.

Zayyad added that the municipality of Nazareth and the local Arab authorities view Ben Gal's declarations as originating from the swamp of the general policy of the forces of occupation, with their frequent land confiscations and discrimination against Palestinian citizens.

Zayyad asserted that the strike was meant as a challenge to this fascist policy, and dismissed the Zionist Minister of War's reprimand to Ben Gal as an attempt to throw sand in the eyes of the Arabs, and as insufficient to satisfy the people or the local authorities.

Zayyad asserted at the end of his press conference that the Palestinian people will carry on its struggle and hold firmly to its land and its right to live.

Negev Arabs resist seizure of their lands

HELP FOR VICTIMS OF ZIONIST AGGRESSION

The Jerusalem Donations Committee collected IL 98,685 as part of contributions to the family of Abdel-Samie Badr, whose house was demolished by the Zionist authorities last April.

NEGEV ARABS DENOUNCE LAND SEIZURE

In an appeal on August 27 to Palestinian and Jewish progressive public opinion, the representatives of the Arabs of the Negev objected to the Israeli decision to confiscate their lands, and described the law concerning the confiscation of land for the construction of military airbases — in accordance with the treaty with Egypt — as a paradigm of racial discrimination and aggression. The Negev representatives confirmed that the real aim behind this policy was the expulsion of the people of the region from their lands, in preparation for its Judaization. The representatives wondered how the Israeli authorities could proclaim their respect for human rights at a time when they themselves violate the simplest rights of the Palestinian people, that of living peacefully on their own soil.

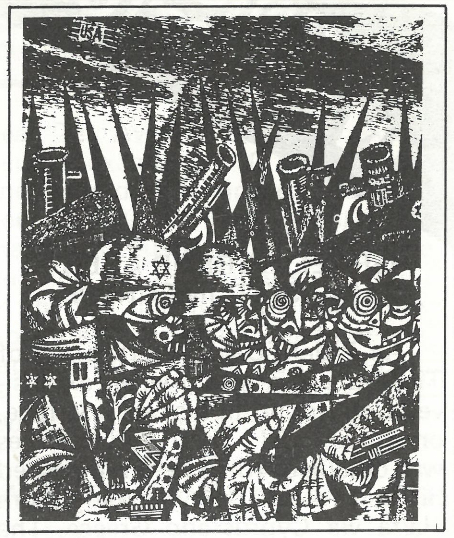
ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

TASS DENOUNCES ZIONIST-NAZI COLLABORATION

In an attack on "International Zionism" and "its grandiose lies", by Yuri Sergeyev, the Soviet news agency "Tass", on August 2, 1979, shed a special light on the collaboration between Nazism and agents of Zionism during World War II."Tass" commented:

"The policy of terrorism and collective extermination of the Arab people in territories occupied by Israel is well known. We have also not forgotten the crimes committed by Zionists who once collaborated with Nazim to exterminate Jews in many countries during World War II. An example is Adolf Eichmann. He was exceptionally empowered by the fascist government of Germany to achieve a final solution to the Jewish problem, and had established close contacts with the Zionists who cooperated with him in many instances: first inside Germany, then inside all countries that Germany had occupied. In Poland he was an active accomplice and partner of the Zionist Nossing. In Czechoslavakia, he closely cooperated with the Zionist Mandler, and so on.

"World public opinion has not also forgotten what was called "The Case of Rudolf Kastner", leader of the Hungarian Zionists. This man, who once held a high post in Israel in the past had helped the Nazis during World War II, to dispatch thousands of Jews to the ovens in return for rescuing a handful of wealthy Zionists and activists.



"During sessions of the court which was looking into the publicity-ridden case of Kastner in the 50's, it was entirely affirmed that Kastner had cooperated with Eichmann and with General Alsnahas Beikheir in "exporting" 5,000 wealthy Jews from Hungary, including members of the Zionist Youth Organisation, leaving behind 500,000 Jews to be exterminated by the Gestapo, after being assembled in ghettos. It has been maintained that Kastner had closely cooperated with Nazi Gestapo men and that he acted according to orders he received from the leaders of International Zionism.

"In March 1957, Kastner was killed by agents of the Israeli Secret Police and it may well be true that the reason behind that was to hide away the truth about his crimes and his connections with the Zionist leaders. But we neither forget these facts nor the dirty acts of these Zionists.

"These are the ugly acts of Zionist traitors and murderers who took part in the extermination of Jews in Europe during the years of the Second World War. These acts show the wide gap which separates the Zionist reactionary leaders from the broad masses of the Jews who struggled shoulder-to-shoulder with other peoples of the world against Nazism. The progressive peoples of the world including those of Europe have firmly denounced, and still do, the treacherous acts of the Zionists against the Jewish people.

"It is useless for the present heirs of Nossing, Mandler, Kastner, and company to pretend to be the defenders of Soviet Jews and try under this false pretense, to continue their mean acts in the interest of imperialist reactionaries whom they still serve. Their treacherous acts really stir the anger of all honourable people of the world."

SEPHARDIC AND ASHKENAZI RABBIS ARGUE OVER WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Tension between the Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews is not a new phenomenon in Zionist society. From the earliest days of Zionist settlement, the Ashkenazi European settlers have regarded themselves as "superior" to the Sephardim who come mainly from Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries. One indication of the separation between the two communities is that Israel has two Chief Rabbis, one Sephardic and the other Ashkenazi.

Although he is one of the very few Sephardic Jews admitted to the senior ranks of the Ashkenazi-dominated establishment, and hence is required to play an "Uncle Tom" role, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef has now become involved in a controversy with his Ashkenazi counterpart Rabbi Shlomo Goren. The reason is that Rabbi Yosef has issued a theological pronouncement which, while perfectly sound in terms of the religious ethics of Judaism, is tantamount to a "heresy" according to the Zionist viewpoint.

On 20 August, Chief Rabbi Yosef told a Rabbis' conference that the doctrine of "Pikuah Nefesh" (the saving of lives) could be applied with regard to the Israelis relinquishing their hold over territories they seized in 1967. Noting the Zionist insistence on holding onto the West Bank, he stated: "If it is true, as the politicians say, that this would endanger us in a coming war — God forbid — and much blood — God forbid — would be spilled... the return of the territories is permissible."

According to many religious Jews, this doctrine of the sanctity of human lives should take precedence over all other commandments and laws, which can be set aside if human lives are at stake.

Chief Rabbi Goren, who was the Israeli Armed Forces' Head Chaplain in the 1967 war and is well known for his hawkish views, disagrees with this and maintains that priority should be given to Zionist expansionism and colonisation. He claims that Jews are forbidden to transfer any part of the Holy Land to non-Jews and "Pikuah Nefesh does not apply to 'defence' of the Holy Land."

The Sephardic Rabbi's greater concern for human life illustrates the difference in attitudes between the Sephardim, who have traditionally lived in societies with a greater degree of religious tolerance, and the Ashkenazim, who were the victims of repeated pogroms in Europe. Zionism, essentially an Ashkenazi concept, grew up in Europe parallel to a number of fascist and extreme nationalist philosophies, many of whose doctrines it adopted in one form or another.

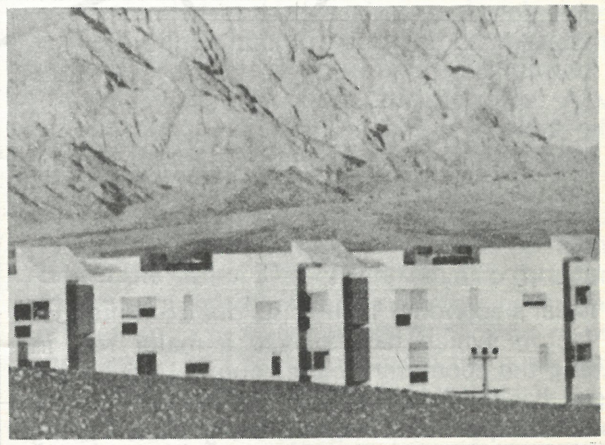
MORE CONFISCATION OF ARAB LAND, MORE ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli authorities are continuing their policy of forced land seizures despite protests and legal action by Arab landowners. On August 19, Jerusalem newspapers revealed a decision adopted by the Israeli Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs to confiscate thousands of dunums of Palestinian land extending from south of the Nabi Ya'coub region to the French Hill in Jerusalem. They also revealed that the Israeli authorities are demolishing Palestinian houses in the abovementioned region.

On August 24, an Israeli court endorsed the establishment of new settlements in the Ramallah region (which involved the confiscation of an area of 500 dunums) and rejected the protests of Arab landowners because of "the security of Lydd airport". Meanwhile, the Israeli Supreme Court permitted two Alon Moreh settlers to join the Israeli Ministery of War and the Israeli Military Governor in the West Bank as defendants in a land seizure case, therefore for the first time recognizing the settlers as a party with specific interests in land seizure policies and matters related to land confiscation. Elias Khoury, the lawyer of the Palestinian landowners, protested saying the settlers are already part of the Israeli security network, and as such were represented by the Israeli Minister of War and the Chief of Staff. He noted: "They have no role in, or personal right to, the confiscated land".

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION: 50,000 ISRAELI SETTLERS IN JERUSALEM

The World Zionist Organisation, a semi-official agency responsible for Jewish settlement in occupied territory, reported that about 14,500 settlers now live in 64 settlements in the West Bank in addition to 50,000 Israelis living in East Jerusalem, annexed after the 1967 war. A senior official of the Jewish Agency affirmed on August 21 that by building new strategic villages, Israel is trying to create faits accomplis in the West Bank. The main aim is to get full control over all important communication lines before completion of the so-called autonomy negotiations.

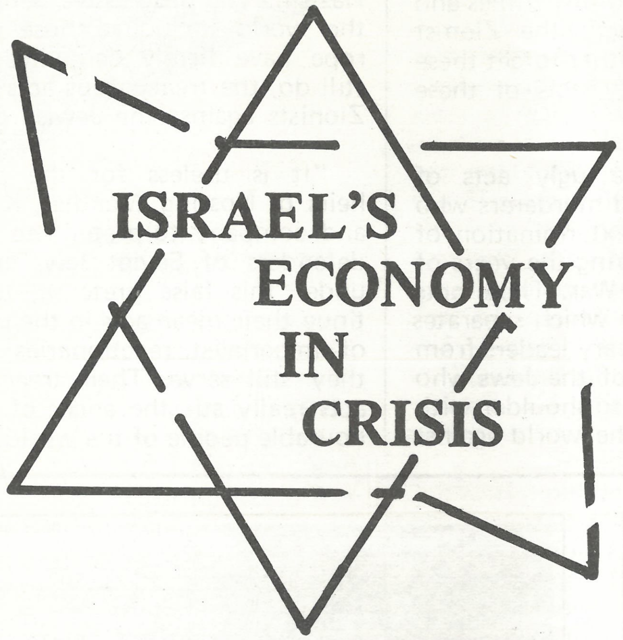


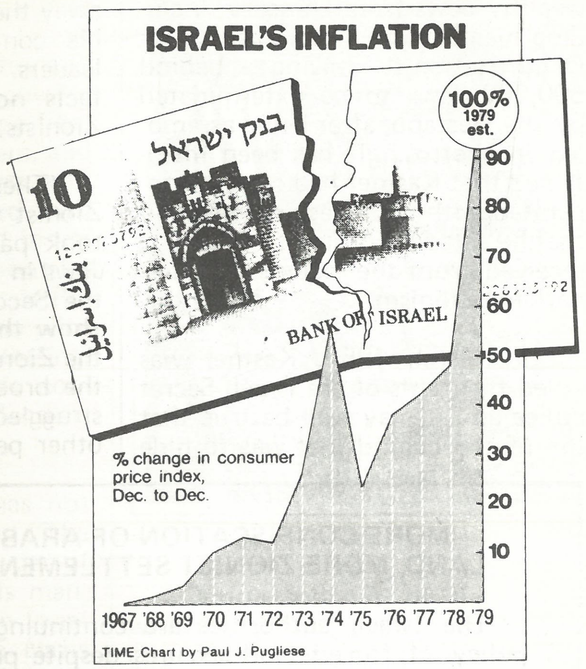
More settlements

NEW SETTLEMENT IN GOLAN

The Israeli daily al-Hamishmar reported on August 27 that a group of seven Knesset members adopted a resolution to establish 1000 more residential units in the occupied Golan Heights for this fiscal year, with the aim of raising the number of settlers there to 10,000. The daily also revealed that the same group planned on tripling the number of settlers in the Kitsreen colony thus accomodating up to 1000 Israeli families. At the same time, two members of the Israeli Knesset, Yusuf Rum and Shlomo Halil, will introduce a resolution to issue Israeli identity cards for the residents of the Golan Heights, including the Arab Druze. The seven-member group of Israeli Knesset members also signed a petition calling for the application of Israeli law in the occupied Golan Heights, and their inclusion in the state of Israel.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IN CRISIS





TIME Chart by Paul J. Pugliese

Israel's economy is in crisis due to a number of factors which have played a major role in ruining the economy of the country. Menachem Begin has adopted a "free economy" policy which he promised would bring better living conditions and further the welfare of the Israelis. This policy was advised by the American economist, Milton Friedman, who urged Israel to float its pound, eliminate exchange controls, reduce public spending, and gradually remove all subsidies and controls in general on the 'free' market to the fullest possible extent. Friedman, who was once an ideologist and economic advisor for the dictator Pinochet of Chile, advocates a theory that gives the monopoly capitalists a free hand. This ultra-ractionary policy has yielded catastrophic results for the working people, and eventually Israel's economic crisis became worse than ever. The main factors for this crisis include, of course, the Zionist settlement policy; increased military expenditures following the Camp David "peace" pact, and Israel's complete economic, financial and military dependence on the U.S.

Above all, Israel's continued war policy against the Palestinian people and the PLO is the basic reason for this deterioration.

AFTER THE 'PEACE': SOARING MILITARY SPENDING TAX EVASION

Soaring military needs which account for more than 41 % of the Gross National Product are reflected in the unbalanced budget the Israeli government presents to the Knesset every year. To meet defence expenditures, the Israeli government has had to impose high taxes. The Israeli government also plans from time to time to impose further indirect taxes to cover the trade deficit of 5.8 billion dollars, a figure which is still going up. The Israelis are now the most highly taxed people in the world. They have been going through a period of belt-tightening and unemployment for a long time now. Tax evasion has reached such stunning proportions that government officials have considered wiping the slate clean and drawing up new tax rolls.

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT, INDEBTEDNESS, LACK OF INVESTMENT

Due to its parasitical structure in the service of imperialism, the Zionist state had always been importing more that it exported. But this year, the annual balance-of-trade deficit is expected to reach a new record level of about $ 5 billion. At the same time, Israel's overall foreign debts also will reach a new peak amounting to over $ 14 billion, showing the complete dependence of the Zionist state on its masters in the U.S.

The symptoms of Israel's economic crisis include declining confidence from foreign investors. Last year, foreign investments in Israel stood at $ 74.7 million, but during the same period $ 97.4 million was taken out of Israel – 40.4 million dollars by foreign investors who have taken to new fields and 57 million dollars by Israelis investing in foreign countries. State loans for the same period jumped another 1.5 billion dollars to reach 11.8 billion dollars.

100 % INFLATION SHARP RISE IN BASIC FOOD PRICES

Inflation is eroding the fabric of Israeli society by widening the gap between rich and poor and diverting investments from productive enterprises toward speculation. Indeed, inflation is of greater concern than any other issue. Prices of basic consumer commodities have soared amidst growing differences among Israeli leaders about the economic policy followed by Simcha Ehrlich, the Minister of Finance. The cost of living index rose by 5.5 percent last July, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The figure has risen by 41.2 percent since the beginning of the year. The July increase represent only part of recent price rises and another large increase is expected for this August. In sum, inflation is now expected to reach a record 100% mark by the end of 1979.

For the popuation, all this means a drastic reduction in living standards. Basic food prices have increased by 45 to 50 percent and prices of wheat and other cereals have increased by 40 percent, while the price of flour has increased by 28 percent. (60 kilos of flour are sold at 460 Israeli liras).

Electricity rates have increased by 28 percent and fuel by 40 percent. The Israeli Ministry of Finance has also said that public transport fares will rise by 25 percent, while prices of bread, frozen chickens, oil, milk and dairy products will rise by 45 percent.

GROWING LABOUR AND SOCIAL UNREST, POLITICAL DESTABILIZATION

To protest the unbearable economic situation, the soaring costs of living and, above all, the sharp increase in unemployment figures, there are frequent walkouts by teachers, factory workers, engineers, nurses and bus drivers in protest against the deteriorating economic situation and the high cost of living in addition to lack of security.

To protest the government's cuts in subsidies effective August, 1, which aim to save the government 153 million dollars a year, more than one million workers, about a third of the population of Israel, staged a two-hour strike on August 13 which was observed by 90 percent of the country's work force, according to the Histadrut trade union federation. Employees of the civil aviation administration stopped work for five hours, grounding all incoming and outgoing planes and leaving thousands of passengers stranded at Lydda airport. A coincidental strike by electric corporation employees demanding improved working conditions turned off traffic lights throughout the country. A vast amount of preserved foods was spoiled while huge traffic jams built up on the main roads.

Laborers protest deteriorating working and living conditions

The Federation refused to heed a request submitted to it by Finance Minister Erhlich to cancel the strike. The Federation also threatened to stage a national strike if the government refused to raise wages to meet the wave of price increases. The Federation asked the government to raise wages again from next October 1.

The economic situation has, of course, affected Israeli politics. Most members of the Histadrut Party are seeking the downfall of Begin and his ruling Likud coalition, whom they consider responsible for Israel's poor economic performance. Differences between Israeli leaders have increased, especially between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defence Minister Ezer Weizman. The cabinet cannot agree on the measures necessary to cope with this disastrous situation.

The Israeli economy is sharing in the general malaise of the world capitalist system, but its problems are aggravated by the role it must play as a regional garrison state for imperialism. Even with massive US support, the Israeli economy is being asked to deliver far more than it possibly can produce and thus, by one of those ironies that fill the pages of history, Israel is now becoming a victim of that very imperialist system which it served and profited from so well for so long.

Regrettably, Chief Rabbi Yosef's pronouncement is unlikely to affect Israeli government policy, which is Ashkenazi-dominated and considers religious law as only one of its sources. But it raises interesting moral questions and further emphasises the importance of the largely suppressed voice of the Sephardic community.

AFTERMATH OF YOUNG RESIGNATION:

PLO representative to UN, Zehdi Tarazi shakes hands with Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

BLACK COMMUNITIES IN U.S. CONDEMN ZIONIST BLACKMAIL, U.S. RACISM

The Zionist-enforced resignation of the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, has become a prime issue of debate in the U.S., drawing attention to the core of the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian people's cause. The debate was triggered off by the mere fact that Young, fulfilling his role at the UN, met with the PLO's UN representative, Zehdi Tarazi, Even though this was not the first time such a meeting has taken place between a U.S. official and a PLO member. The Zionist lobby in Washington, with its loyalty to Israel, blackmailed the U.S. government into dropping the one significant Black leader in the U.S. administration who had a following among the oppressed Black community.

Naturally, leaders of the Black American community have reacted strongly to this racist move. In fact, most Black leaders have made public their awareness that disastrous developments in the Middle East, due to Israeli intransigence and U.S. one-sidedness, will further worsen their already bad living conditions.

MEETINGS BETWEEN BLACK LEADERS AND PLO

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a prominent Black leader, has said that he intends to arrange meetings between Black leaders and the PLO "to figure out how to reconcile this crisis, because we will be part of the economic impact if the situation blows up in the Middle East."

Contrary to the Zionist allegation that the Palestinian people do not exist, Young declared: "At one time we all thought that the PLO would go away. They have not gone away. They seemingly have increased in their political influence and potential economic strength and I don't think it is in anybody's interest to ignore those kinds of forces."

For American Jews who are Zionists, whose first loyalty is to the State of Israel and not to the U.S. people, Young's meeting with Tarazi was unacceptable. But to Black Americans, most of whom belong to the poorer classes of American society, an increase in the cost of gas would mean a further deterioration of their living standards, and therefore Blacks naturally take an interest in a genuine peace in the Middle East.

A group of leading Black Americans held a press conference on August 20 after a meeting with Tarazi. Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Young was once an official, said: "We communicated to Mr. Tarazi and his associates our support of the human rights of all Palestinians, including the right of self-determination, including among other things their homeland."

Relations between Black and Jewish communities have been strained in recent years by some Jewish groups' opposition to affirmative action programs that seek to redress discrimination against Blacks and other minorities in the U.S. Israel's recognition of and warm relationship with South Africa has been severely condemned by U.S. Blacks. In the words of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the strains between the Black community and American Jewish Zionists "are more serious than some people want to pretend."

The Black American civil rights movement and the Palestinian Resistance, whose development began almost simultaneously in the early 1960s, share many things in common. Both are revolts against intolerable systems of racist repression. Since their enemies, the rulers of the United States and Zionism, are closely allied to each other, it is logical that the Afro-American and Palestinian liberation movements should develop close ties with each other.

The Afro-American revolutionary groups have long been opposed to Zionism and recognised its racist character. In the July 1967 insurrection in Detroit, Zionist capitalists and their property were main targets of popular anger. What the Young affair has done is to reveal the true nature of Zionism even to the reformist, often pacifist, civil rights groups such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, which had not taken an anti-Zionist position in the past. These organisations remain moderate and pacifist and, rather than attacking Israel, they have declared their support for Palestinian rights. This in itself, however, is a very positive and important development. As Congressman Paul Findley saw it, "the Palestinian people are the only group of people that seem to have been overlooked in our broad concern for human rights," and Afro-Americans are now endeavouring to correct this omission. Young stated publicly that he had warned the Israelis their insistence on his dismissal could create a constituency for Palestinian rights in the United States.

COMMON STRUGGLE AND INTERESTS

Rev. Jesse Jackson

The Black Americans, who themselves have waged a biter struggle to reaffirm their human and civil rights, are realizing more and more that their faith and struggle is linked to the struggle of other oppressed peoples the world over, including the Palestinian peoples the world aware of the fact that increases in the cost of living in the U.S. are partially linked to the crisis in the Middle East. As a consequence of the Camp David "peace", the U.S. is to boost its billions of military and other "aid" to the Zionist state and the Sadat regime. Furthermore, the probable disorder in Western oil supplies in the not so far future as a result of U.S. aggressive and destabilising Middle East policies is bound to affect the already bad living conditions of the working population in the U.S., above all of all the Blacks and other minorities.

The Black community in America, becoming ever more deprived and a primary victim of inflation, can no longer turn a deaf ear to the cry of the Palestinian people, for it is a cry for justice, equality and peace. International peace matters a lot to American Blacks, since the Vietnam War demonstrated they are the first ones to be drafted and get killed when the U.S. pursues aggressive policies.

Last but not least, the racist attitudes of American Zionists have insulted many Blacks. Theodore Mann, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, remarked that Black leaders are not qualified to understand U.S. foreign policy. Such remarks, revealing the racism that is at the root of the Zionist ideology, can only strengthen the resolve of the Black community in the U.S. to confront its real enemies.

INTERVIEW WITH STOKELEY CARMICHAEL:

COMMON STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN AND AFRICAN PEOPLE

"Palestine" Bulletin interviewed comrade Stokeley Carmichael during his recent visit to Lebanon. Carmichael, one of the prominent leaders of the Black Power Movement in the United States, now calls himself Kwame Ture, and has lived in Guinea since 1968. He is the leader of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party, founded by the late President Nkrumah of Ghana in the 1960s.

Q: What is the situation of Black Americans fourteen years after the emergence of the Black Power Movement in the U.S.?

A: The history of the Africans taken to America clearly demonstrates that since their first encounter with imperialism, they have been struggling relentlessly against the system. If you take just a cursory glance at the slave trade, you will see that throughout the Carribbean and North and South America, there were innumerable slave revolts.

When slavery was abolished, the struggle of the Africans continued. In history, you will see the African masses hurling themselves, almost recklessly, without regard for their lives, just as Palestinians hurl themselves against the Zionist machine. Continuous African rebellions in the U.S. have occurred during this century, and they've been growing in intensity. In the 1960s, American imperialism was tied down in Vietnam and the American capitalist system was using a significant proportion of Africans to wage the war in Vietnam, and so it became vulnerable to mass, spontaneous action and rebellion by the masses of African people. The African masses were able to force the capitalist system to grant some concessions.

Since the 1960s, all of these concessions have been taken back and the masses of people have been unable to resist because they are unorganized. Therefore, the central task of the 1970s has been to organize our masses of people.

Q: What is the situation of other minorities in the U.S., such as the Indians, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans?

A: They too have been following the same trend. If we take the Puerto Ricans, for example, in the 1960s, they had an organization called the MPI, the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence. Now, they have transformed themselves into the PSP, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. They have seen the necessity for clear, scientific organization.

Stokeley Carmichael (center left) at solidarity march in Washington for African liberation and Palestine, in May 1979

The Native Americans are another example. The American Indian Movement (AIM) is trying to organize the Indians into following a strategy that will advance their struggle in America.

So you can see that the national minorities are becoming increasingly aware of the need for clear, scientific organization. There can be no revolution without organization. You can have mass movements to gain reforms, but if you want revolution, you must have organization.

Q: How do you view the common interests of liberation movements around the world and the national minorities in the U.S.?

A: It's a dialectical world. Everything affects everything else. Dr. Martin Luther King used to say frequently that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Conscious men and women must fight injustice everywhere. Therefore, as human beings, we have a responsibility, whether we are directly affected by injustice, to struggle for peace and justice. Because national liberation movements, including the Palestinian movement, are fighting a just struggle, it is our responsibility to support these struggles. As Africans in America, we are oppressed by the world imperialist system, led by America. These national liberation movements, wehhther they are fighting against Portuguese colonialism, as in Mozambique and Angola, or Zionism, as in the Middle East, are ultimately fighting American imperialism.

Q: How do you view the so-called "human rights" policy of the U.S.?

A: There is no human rights policy of the U.S. government and there can never be because in the U.S. you have a capitalist system and government. Look at the position of the national minorities in America and the vicious exploitation they suffer. Talk of human rights under capitalism is nothing but nonsense.

Q: How do you analyze U.S. Middle East policy, especially since the conclusion of the separate U.S.-Sadat-Begin "peace"?

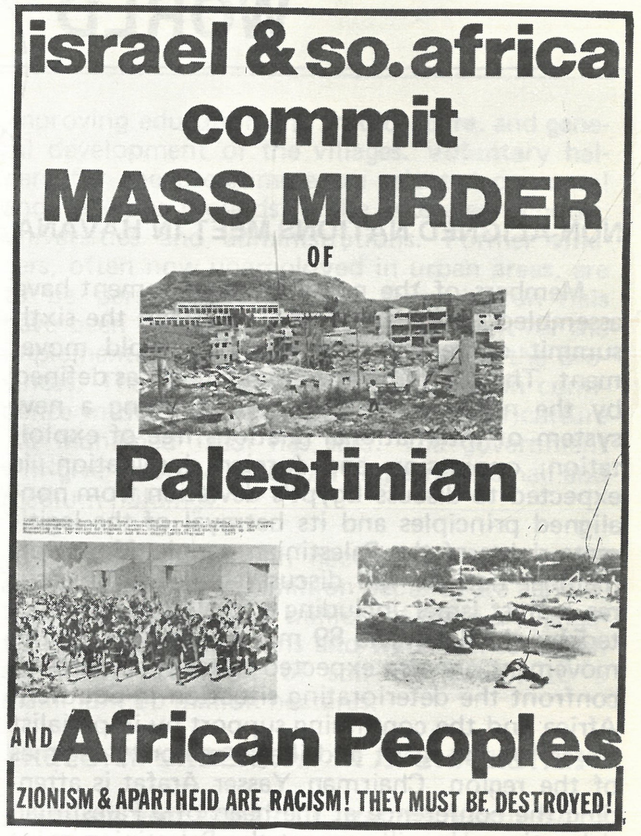
A: U.S. policy in the Middle East is the same as it has always been. It is in total collusion with Israel. On the question of the Middle East, the Zionists effectively control the U.S. policy through the U.S. tax dollars which support the Zionist state of Israel. The American people cannot see clearly how Zionism effects American foreign policy. But just as they turned against their government during the Vietnam war, the American people will turn against the government on the question of Zionism.

U.S. Middle East policy is clear. The Zionists want 1) the liquidation of the Palestinian movement 2) Once the Palestinian movement is liquidated, they can seek to make arrangements with the reactionary Arab regimes and neutralize the others.

Recently, the American Congress voted not to give visas to any more members of the PLO. This is another step to isolate the PLO.

Q: Do you detect any change in the American public's attitude towards Zionist domination of U.S. Government policy?

A: There is no question that a rupture will come, from the pressure of the masses. I don't think that the pressure can come from within the American imperialist system or Zionism.



Poster issued by U.S. Black Movement in solidarity with the people of Africa and Palestine.

Q: What was the purpose of your visit to the PLO and what have the results been?

A: I came to have better mutual contact and to establish a working relation with the PLO. Since the 1960s, the Black Power movement has been singular and unique in its support of the Palestinian movement. Unfortunately, there has not been much direct contact between the PLO and these groups. Direct contact is necessary so that we can better support the struggle of the PLO. I came for this and to let the PLO know that we support them uncompromisingly — 100 percent. We will never retreat from our position of supporting the PLO in its quest to establish a democratic Palestinian state.

In Lebanon, we went to the South and saw how the Zionists are stepping up their vicious attacks in their attempt to liquidate the PLO. But it is clear that the Zionists will never succeed. What impressed us was that, despite Israeli bullets, bombs, shells and airplanes, the Palestinian people are alive. They are the most alive in the Arab nation and they confirm our thesis that the Palestinian Revolution is the spark for the entire Arab revolutionary movement.

WORLD EVENTS

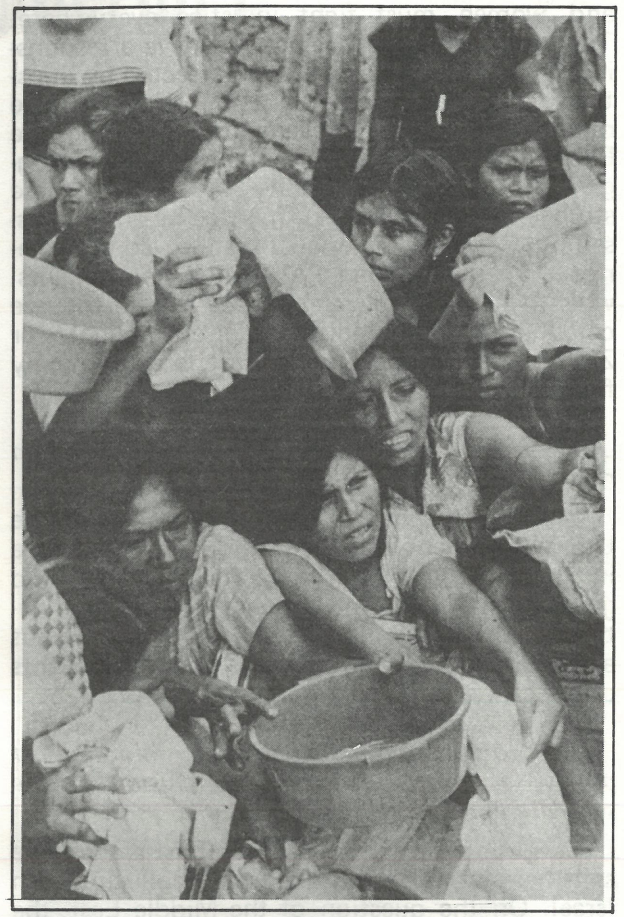
NON-ALIGNED NATIONS MEET IN HAVANA

Members of the non-aligned movement have assembled in Havana, Cuba, to attend the sixth summit conference of the 18 year-old movement. The summit, pursuing its goals as defined by the non-aligned charter of building a new system of international relations free of exploitation, oppression and foreign domination, is expected to discuss Egypt's deviation from non-aligned principles and its betrayal of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Moreover, member nations will discuss stepped-up measures against Israel, including a total boycott directed by the UN. The 89 member nations of the movement are also expected to take measures to confront the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa and the continuing support by imperialist states for the racist and illegal minority regimes of the region. Chairman Yasser Arafat is attending the conference at the head of a Palestinian delegation. He will present the Palestinian point of view about the latest political developments on both the Palestinian and Arab levels.

NICARAGUA RECONSTRUCTS UNDER REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

"The comparatively quick normalization of life in our country and the vigorous participation of wide sections of the people in construction are the most significant results of the first month after the victory of the popular forces over the Somoza dictatorship," said Dr. Sergio Ramirez, a member of the government of national reconciliation in Nicaragua, who was interviewed on August 27. He said the revolutionary government was extremely satisfied with the support coming from the people who for the first time in the country's history had taken over tasks of their political organisation and enthusiastically helped implement the immediate measures of the government. In many towns there was movement taking the first difficult steps for the country's rebuilding by way of voluntary, collective work to boost production.

Among the important measures taken are laws on nationalisation of the entire property of the Somoza clan and the private banks, and decrees on partial state ownership of foreign trade enterprises and on implementation of the agrarian reform. One of the most important results of the revolutionary process was the speedy reorganisation of the administration. "Even in the most remote villages Sandinist defence committees were set up which decisively influence democratisation of the country by including the popular forces in local and national decision — making, "the 37-year-old Dr. Ramirez, a lawyer and author, stressed.



Nicaragua: The struggle for food

Democratically elected local people's representations have been set up in over 80 per cent of the 137 Nicaraguan towns and communities. Over the next few months priority tasks must be solved in the health system, national education, housing, agricultural production and in the food sector. To do so the government has started to build up a uniform health system and to prepare a literacy campaign for which the whole people is to be activated. Special importance is attributed to the speedy revival of agricultural production, mainly the cultivation of staple foods such as maize, beans and rice. The complicated situation in food supply until the next harvest can only be solved with the help of international solidarity and support, he said.

"In foreign policy we are seeking relations with all nations in the world and want to pursue a policy of non-alignment," Dr. Ramirez continued. The government of national reconstruction of Nicaragua has established diplomatic relations with a number of socialist states, and liberated Nicaragua will work for the maintenance of peace and attend the non-aligned summit in Havana in September. Dr. Ramirez thanked the socialist countries for the aid consignments they have sent to Nicaragua, calling the consignments "important contributions to international solidarity."

STRUGGLE TO REVIVE IRANIAN AGRICULTURE

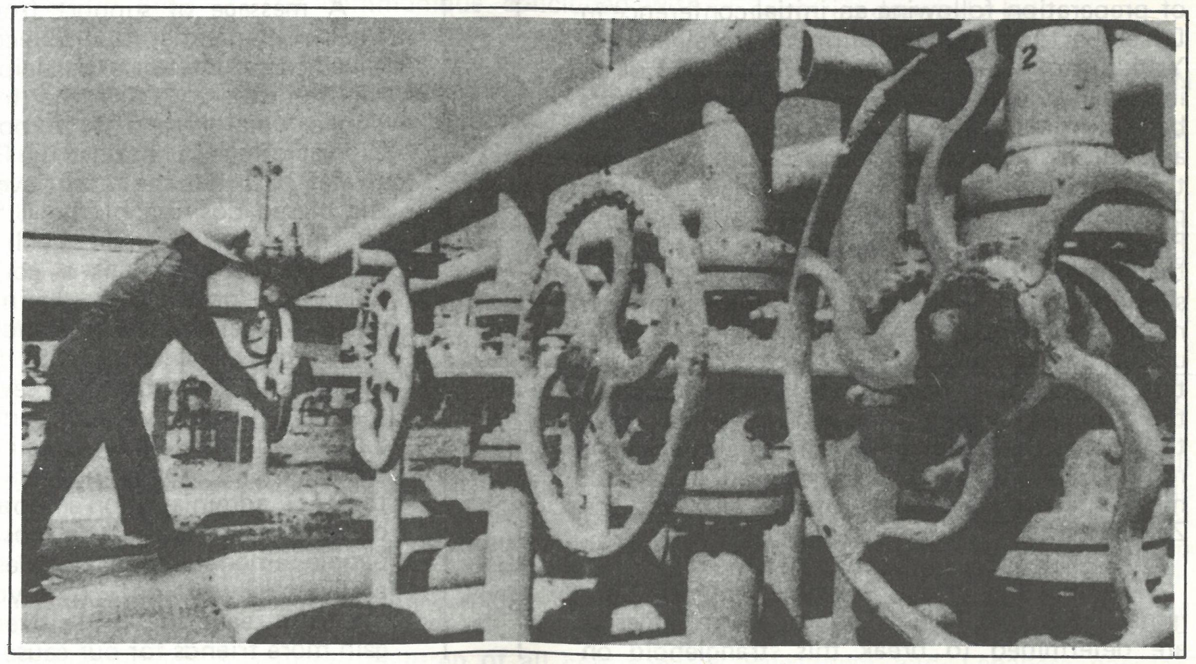
Life and work in Iranian villages are to become more attractive and productive in order to make the country self-sufficient in food supplies. This has been underlined in a call for Jihad — "holy war" — made by Ayatullah Khomeini in June to revive Iran's agriculture. Iran's agriculture had been grossly neglected under the Shah's regime. The importation of foodstuffs had been encouraged at the expense of Iranian peasants. Cultivation of cotton, tea, potatoes and onions decreased. The major part of the system of underground water canals, effective for thousands of years, was destroyed. Extremely low incomes made many peasant families leave their villages. Ali Reza Afshar, spokesman of the "jihad" centre, has reported that efforts are being concentrated in three spheres: stepping up agricultural production, improving education and medical care, and general development of the villages. Voluntary helpers for the programme are selected on moral and religious grounds in the mosques, schools, universities and administrations. Former villagers, often now unemployed in urban areas, are to be persuaded to return. Sixty billion rials have been earmarked by the government for the implementation of agrarian projects in the provinces. The rural population is to regain confidence in their own work, Minister of Agriculture Ali Mohamed Izadi has said. The government will give priority to supporting private small and medium holdings.

Of the 165 million hectares of Iran's total area, only about 9.7 million hectares are agricultural acreage, and 3.7 million of them are irrigated. The soil conditions and water conservation allow an extension of soil cultivation to a maximum 20 million hectares.

REFORM UNDERWAY IN AFGHANISTAN

Only a year and a half after the overthrow of the Daoudi regime, by the Afghani people under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, several reforms have been accomplished in the economic and social fields. 350,000 hectars of land has been distributed to 150,000 families under the agrarian reform scheme launched last January, and another 300,000 hectars are being distributed amongst 160,000 families. Over 800 schools have been opened since the revolution as well as 200 dispensaries and 900 farm cooperatives.

Iran: Oil workers
at Abadan refinery
The struggle to revive
the national economy



SOLIDARITY

PALESTINE AMERICAN CONGRESS:

STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION

On August 17-19, over 400 delegates representing Palestinian organizations and communities in the U.S. and Canada met in Washington, D.C. for the Constitutional Convention of the Palestine America Congress. The meeting was an important step in the ongoing campaign by Palestinians in North America to join together in a strong, united voice. Conference participants met at a critical juncture in U.S. policy towards the Middle East and towards the Palestinian people and used their time effectively both to adopt strategies for the future and to take immediate action, including an August 18 demonstration in front of the White House to protest U.S. policy and affirm that the "PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

This slogan in fact was the heart of the common program and constitution adopted by the conference, which confirmed the conference's adherence to the resolutions of the Palestinian National Congress, the Palestinian National Charter and PLO policy. Delegates reflected the conviction of Palestinians in North America that they are part of one Palestinian nation.

The August conference came after six months of preparation following an initial conference in December 1978 at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City. The same hotel was the scene of an important Zionist conference thirty-seven years before, in May of 1942, that launched a massive and successful organizing drive in the U.S. For the first time in public, Zionist delegates had proclaimed that their goal was a Jewish State in Palestine. The Zionist conference recognized that the key to Zionist success was winning the support of the U.S. and the resulting campaign reached all levels of American society — from unions and farming associations to Congress and the Presidency. The overwhelming success of this campaign, which coincided with a U.S. drive to become the major power in the strategic and resources-rich Middle East, resulted in the almost unqualified support of the U.S. for the Zionist state.

Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah/Occupied West Bank, addressing Palestine American Congress

The meeting of the Palestine America Congress shows that Palestinians in North America are determined to break this stranglehold on American public opinion. In fact, the meeting itself demonstrated that cracks are already appearing in the public consensus in support of Zionism. Two American Black leaders delivered solidarity speeches at the meeting and in turn, the conference sent a cable of support to a meeting of Black leaders held the same weekend in Virginia. The forced resignation of U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young, in the wake of a brief meeting with PLO representative Zehdi Tarazi, was criticized and attributed to "Zionist pressure on the U.S. Administration." The conference called for meetings with Black organizations in the coming months, with the aim of holding joint activities.

MESSAGE FROM YASSER ARAFAT

A message of support from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, called on conference participants to intensify their efforts to show the truth to American public opinion and to expose the U.S. and Zionist offensives against the Palestinian people. Arafat said that the recent events have exposed the biased position of the U.S. Administration on the side of the Israeli aggressors. This position, he added, is a continuation of the policy of former U.S. administrations "which created Israel in our homeland, and supported it with money and arms since its establishment." Arafat said that there are several truths about the Palestinian revolution and about the just Palestinian cause, about Israeli racism and its ties with the U.S. policy, and about the extent of the U.S. administration's support for Israel, all of which are unknown to most of the American people, among whom the Palestinians in America live. He went on: "It is your duty to make the truth reach the U.S. citizen so that we may gain more friends for our cause."

The oppression of the Palestinian people was brought home to the conference in an address by Mayor Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah on the occupied West Bank, who described the situation of Palestinians in the occupied land, noting that 36% of the land occupied in 1967 has been confiscated for Israeli settlement. Khalaf, who also reviewed the number of conferences held inside the occupied land in defence of Palestinian rights, condemned U.S. policy and declared that the "self-rule" conspiracy will never be implemented because the Palestinian people are united in resisting all attempts to impose an unjust solution on them.

The conference of the Palestine America Congress is intended to be the first step in escalating the campaign to stop Israeli aggression, backed by the U.S., against the Palestinian people and their national rights. To this end, the official Founding Congress of the organization will be held in January, 1980. An Executive Committee, consisting of thirteen members, was elected to coordinate activities.

The upsurge of activity by Palestinian organizations is augmented by an increase in activity by solidarity and support groups in the U.S., including a conference sponsored by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in mid-September in Washington and an upcoming conference on "Israel's International Role" to be held by the Palestine Solidarity Committees in the U.S. The American people, which confronted the U.S. government over the war in Vietnam in protests that involved over half a million people at one time, have another role to play in bringing peace to the Middle East and justice to the Palestinian people. ☐

MARCHAIS CONDEMNS "CRIMINAL POLICY OF ISRAEL"

The General Secretary of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, has described the policy of Israel in South Lebanon as "criminal", and expressed his concern regarding the situation in the Middle East as a result of Israeli aggression against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in South Lebanon. He said, after arriving on 27 August for a visit to Algeria, that the democratic forces which support peoples' independence have the urgent task to express solidarity with the Palestinian people, and demand an end to Israel's aggression. Marchais also condemned the Camp David accords, saying that the Egyptian-Israeli treaties will solve nothing, and he called for real negotiations to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

PALESTINIAN COUNCIL IN NORTH AMERICA CONDEMNS ZIONIST INTERVENTION

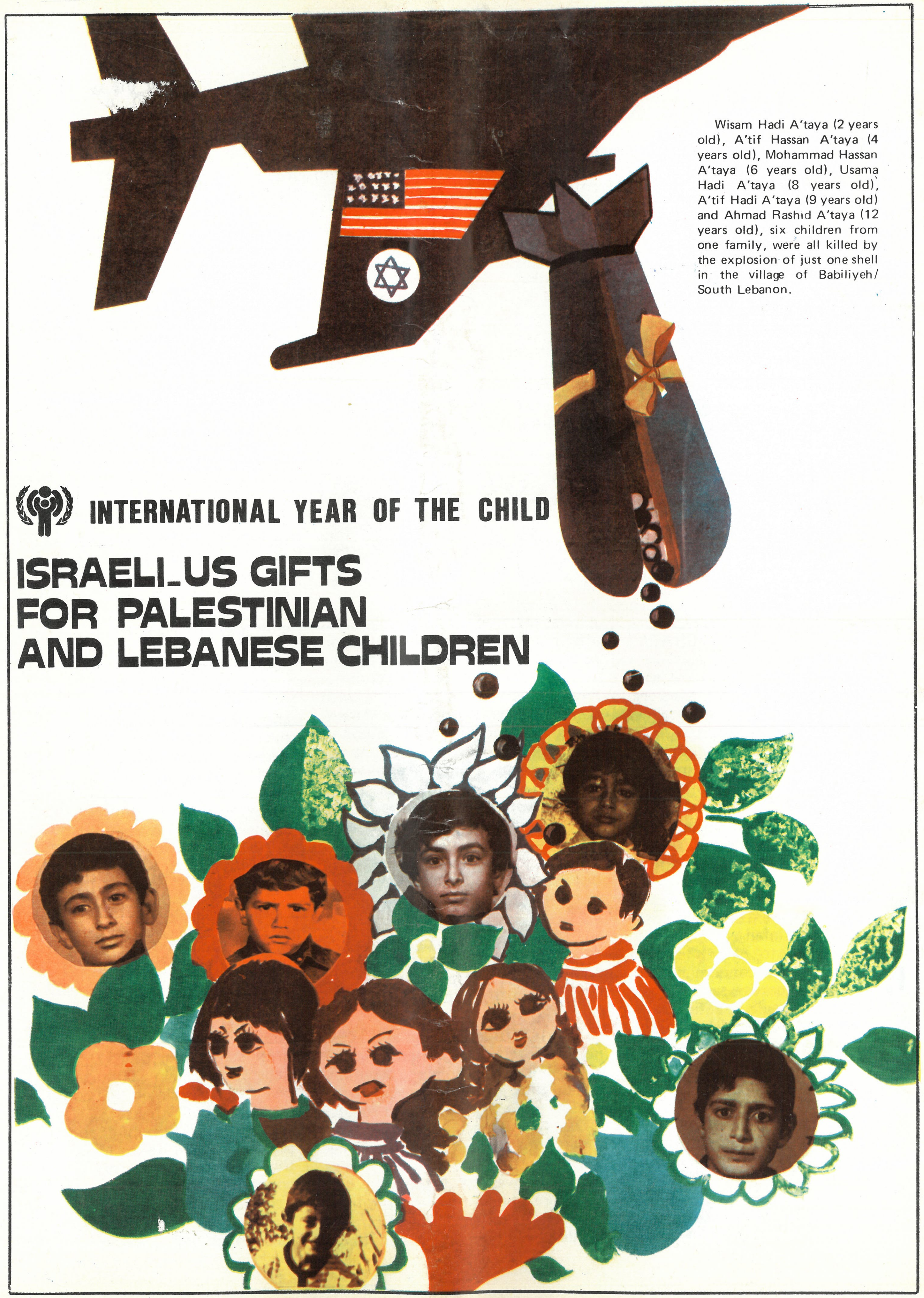
In a communique issued on 28 August 1979, the Palestinian Council in North America condemned Zionist intervention in U.S. internal affairs which led to the resignation of the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Andrew Young. The communique called for more unity with democratic and progressive American forces, and strongly objected to the pressures which led to the acceptance of Young's resignation, considering it a reflection of a Zionist veto against Arab rights. The communique concluded with an invitation to the leaders of minorities in the USA for a meeting to discuss a new alliance for the sake of progress and liberty.

PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ASSEMBLY

A group of Palestinian and Lebanese children participated in an international children's assembly which took place in the Bulgarian capital Sofia from 15 to 25 August 1979. All the participating children came from South Lebanon and Palestinian camps and were selected as representatives of Palestinian and Lebanese children and on the basis of various talents. The assembly gathered children of all continents and was attended by UNESCO in the framework of the International Year of the Child. The programme included exhibitions of children's drawings, readings of poems and stories written by youngsters, concerts with recitals by young composers and singers, tours of Bulgaria, children's festivals and festive processions. Over 80 countries and about 1,100 children participated in the assembly, entitled "Banner of Peace". The children introduced about 4,000 works of music, literature and sculpture they composed, wrote or created themselves. At the final meeting in Sofia's Freedom Park a monument of bells was unveiled, for which all participating countries donated a bell.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ARAB LABOUR UNIONS CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACKS

The General Secretariat of the International Federation of Arab Unions has called on the Arab states to shoulder their responsibility regarding what is taking place in South Lebanon, and to adopt a firm stand regarding U.S. imperialism, the main supporter of Israel. This was stated in a communique issued on August 28, 1979, in which the world public, and all the progressive and peace loving forces the world over, were called upon to condemn Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and to give all possible material and moral support to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.



Wisam Hadi A'taya (2 years old), A'tif Hassan A'taya (4 years old), Mohammad Hassan A'taya (6 years old), Usama Hadi A'taya (8 years old), A'tif Hadi A'taya (9 years old) and Ahmad Rashid A'taya (12 years old), six children from one family, were all killed by the explosion of just one shell in the village of Babiliyeh/ South Lebanon.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

ISRAELI_US GIFTS FOR PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE CHILDREN

Palestine

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HAVANA - SUMMIT

CUMBRE
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ARAFAT WITH SUAREZ